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ABSTRACT

Student volumes and teacher guides for 10 issues of an Australian magazine devoted to the study of Asia comprise this document. The subjects of the ten issues are: (1) Trading for Our Future; (2) Korea: Two Nations--One People; (3) Women in Asia--A Confusing Picture; (4) Australia--Indonesia: A Developing Relationship; (5) The Land on the Roof of the World; (6) Japan Facing the Future; (7) Into India; (8) A China Beyond Politics; (9) The Malaysian Experience; and (10) Looking to the Future. The student sections present a variety of informative articles about each of the 10 subjects. The teacher guides provide background information, how to integrate the topics into the curriculum, maps, and additional resource materials. (DB)

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Asia Wise 1990

Issues 1-10 including Teachers' Sections

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ISSUE ONE 1990

ISSN 1031-5918

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and produced by the Tasmanian Education Department

Trading for our future

Australian company SAGRIC helping map the Philippines.

We have often heard that Australia is a trading nation. We hear it because it is true. Trade is important to us, but then it is important to every country. It is all but impossible for any country to successfully get by without trading with its neighbours. It is unlikely that any one country can produce all the things which it needs in a modern world.

Australia, for instance, produces all manner of goods but still needs to import things like passenger jets, machinery to build motor cars and a whole host of other things. The question then is how do we get these necessary items? Well there are two possibilities — buy them or take them by force. It goes without saying that stealing passenger jets is hardly the way for a responsible country or people to behave. But to buy them we need large amounts of money. Where does the money come from? The simplest way is to sell things which other countries need.

If Australia is to maintain a reasonable standard of living and to provide jobs now and for the future it is important that people and governments in other countries are persuaded to buy our products. This need was recognised soon after white settlement in 1788. Just 20 years later, the colony of New South Wales was exporting coal. By 1820 wool was being sold. So began our trading life.

Imports and exports are often supervised at a government level. This needs to be the case to ensure we are importing what we need and keeping a reasonable balance between imports and exports. If a close check is not kept then we could easily be buying more than we sell and that leads to financial problems.

Individual companies are central to this import/export business. Their motivation is to make a profit and so they will seek markets for particular products. Almost anything can be exported and is — from coal and wool, to Akubra hats and sea cucumbers.

It's not some new idea. As early as the 7th Century BC the Phoenicians, who lived in the Middle East, were loading up ships and trading with nearby countries. What they began hasn't changed much.

Where we sell our products reflects how Australia sees its place in the world. Australia began its life as a British colony and even after Federation in 1901 maintained an extremely close relationship with Britain. The countries in the Asian region were largely ignored, even though they are so close to us in a geographical sense. Of all Australian exports in 1950, only 30 percent went to Asia and the Pacific, while 63 percent went to Britain and Europe. By 1982 that figure had changed dramatically, with the European market getting just 15 percent of our exports, while the figure for Asia and the Pacific had risen to 68 percent.

Japan is now Australia's biggest customer. In 1988 it bought $10 644m which accounted for 26 percent of all Australian exports. After Japan, the USA and the European Economic Community, the countries of ASEAN are our fourth biggest export market. ASEAN countries include Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

The future for Australia is linked to a healthy trading relationship with Asia. This issue of *Asia Wise* will be looking at, among other things, our trading relationship with Asia.

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Australia on a tiger hunt

A walk along a Manila Street is to see the growth of the Asian economies

Australia is a trading nation. The only way Australia can prosper and provide a good and sustained standard of living today and for the future is to continue to develop export markets — to sell things made by Australia to the world.

A medium sized country like Australia obviously can't be self sufficient in all things. We need to buy from the world as well as sell to it. If we buy more than we sell then we get into big trouble. It's just like the problem anyone can get into if their income is not enough to buy all the things that they need to live. The last thirty years have not been terribly good ones for Australia in this regard. Thirty years ago Australia was the 8th biggest exporter in the world. Today it is the 23rd biggest exporter. This is a big drop and means that the economic growth of Australia has slipped a great deal.

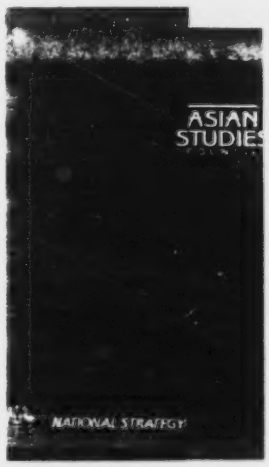
One of the major reasons for this situation is that Australia has relied on primary products — wool, wheat, meat, coal and iron ore. In fact about 80 percent of Australia's exports come from these primary products. Manufactured goods make up the rest. No other developed country in the world has such a high proportion of primary production. Primary product trade has grown at a much smaller rate than manufactures. It is clear that Australia needs to lift its performance and in particular in the manufacturing areas or we will continue to slide down the scale. If we sell less but still need to buy more then that must spell trouble.

The urban Asian skyline is, today, a very familiar one for many in the west

The countries of Asia are among the fastest growing economies in the world. Australia has certainly improved its trade relations with Asia. In 1972 Australia sold $2 billion worth of products to Asia. In 1987 this figure had risen to well over $19 billion. This looks promising. Nearly half of our total exports now go to Asian countries. However, figures can be a little misleading. Australia's share of the Asian market has actually dropped in the same period. The boom economies of Asia have led to a rising demand for imports but Australia has not been able to win a substantial share of that market.

The government has tried to respond to this need to lift our export capacity by beginning to restructure our economy and build new export industries. This all takes time to develop. Australians and particularly young Australians have very real opportunities to play a big part in the future. In its *National Strategy for the Study of Asia in Australia*, The Asian Studies Council points out the need to lift the degree of teaching of Asia, its languages and culture in order for us to better face a future which is so clearly linked with that of Asia's.

The importance, today and for the future of a growing awareness of Asian language and culture is increasing. If Australia is to right the imbalance in our trade relations, then we need to start today.



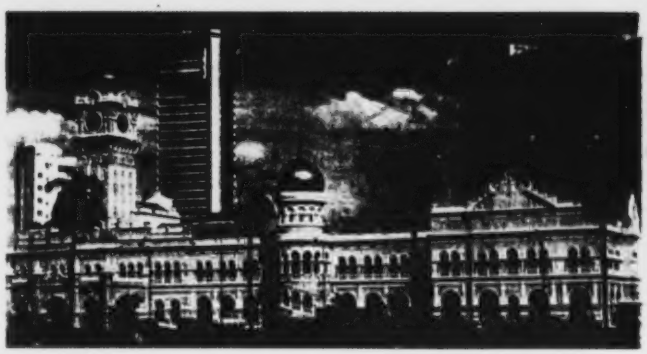
ASEAN and us

The group of countries which make up the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) form a strong trading group and one which is very important for Australia.

These ASEAN countries — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand — are our fourth biggest customer in the export stakes. In 1987-88 more than $3 billion worth of Australian goods were bought by these countries. The top of the list of exports from Australia to ASEAN was wheat, refined petroleum products, raw honey and sugar, metal ores, metal scrap, zinc and zinc alloys and iron and steel.

While Japan is by far Australia's major trading partner in Asia, these booming economies in the region are becoming more and more vital to Australia. This trading arrangement is close to even. Australia sells more than three billion dollars worth of goods to ASEAN and in turn buys just over $2.5 billion worth of products from ASEAN countries.

The economies of these ASEAN member states have one thing in common. They are all in a very healthy position. The Philippines has been in a considerable state of turmoil in recent times and its economy has shown this, but the average growth rates of these countries during the 1980s has been most impressive.



Malaysia is an increasingly important trading partner for Australia.

For a great many years Australia seemed to want to ignore the fact that these countries were such close neighbours. There are still some Australians who would like us to ignore these important countries, but the facts speak for themselves. In the early 1950s our exports to ASEAN and Korea, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan together came to just six percent of the total export from Australia and just seven percent of our imports. By the mid 1980s this figure had jumped to 20 percent of Australia's exports and 17 percent of its imports. Australian government and business leaders generally share the view that our future lies with Asia and particularly the countries of ASEAN.

Indonesian teakhouses

A new and quite different export from Indonesia will soon be seen on Australian building blocks. Traditional exports from Indonesia, apart from oil products, have tended to centre around textiles and clothing. These exports are continuing to rise, but our ASEAN neighbour is set to begin exporting custom built prefabricated houses made from teak.

The first of these unusual exports has already been put together in Japan. The two storey home with a floor space of 240 square metres ended up costing $450 000 after building, shipping and reconstruction in Japan. The project is a welcome one for the less developed regions of Java. The first house employed more than 100 people in the cutting of timber, carving and construction of the house. Twenty more orders have been placed for this year. A similar operation is underway on the island of Bali. The houses are reproductions of typical Balinese designs. Orders have already been filled from Japan, the United States as well as Australia.

Houses like this, made from Indonesian teak, could soon be seen in Australia (Indonesia Development News).

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Making your own luck

The world of trade and exports and imports does have a fairly direct influence on us all. Obviously if we sell wisely we earn money which we all need to get by. When a country gets into difficulties with trade then it can have a very damaging effect on the economy and that is bad news for us all — a poor economy means high unemployment and all the rest.

International trade and relations with foreign countries can also have a very direct meaning for a great many people. In recent years Australia has become more aware of the importance of Asia and that Australia's future and that of Asia are quite closely linked. A strategy to make Australia 'Asia literate' was developed by the Asian Studies Council. This means, among other things, that Australians need to become familiar with Asian languages and culture for all sorts of reasons.

One very obvious reason why we need a good understanding of Asia is that Australia trades very heavily with the countries of the Asian region. More Australians are finding a need to be able to not only understand business arrangements but to be able to speak another language and to understand the culture of the people you are working with.

Larger numbers of school students are beginning to learn Asian languages. It certainly opens up new prospects in the career chase. All sorts of industries in this country, from the hospitality industry to the finance and engineeringindustries are realising the need to be able to do business in another language.

However, it doesn't stop there. With a good grasp of an Asian language and a good background in business studies, commerce, law, engineering or geology, it is quite possible to get Asia-related jobs. The bulk of these are a result of increased trade relationships between Australia and Asia. More students are looking to their future in Asia. They are, in fact, making their own luck.

So the whole question of trade can easily take on a more relevant appearance particularly as it can so easily affect you.

High flyers in Asian languages

Fifteen young Australians have flown out of the country to take up Qantas Asian Language Cadetships. This is the third year of the program which sees students gain intensive language training in either Tokyo, Beijing or Seoul. This is followed by a paid work experience period with Qantas during their mid-year vacation period in 1990.

Kim Rowlands will be studying in Japan for 12 months. Kim, who has completed year 11, has been studying Japanese for five years and is looking forward to a career using her language skills.

The winners were chosen from more than 400 applicants to be part of Qantas' investment program in Asian language and cultural skills for improved international competitiveness.

Mr John Ward, Qantas Chief Executive, in announcing the names of the successful applicants, said that 'for Qantas, the Australian tourism industry and business generally, the Asia Pacific Region will provide more and more of our customers and our competitors.'

The lead taken in this field by Qantas has been congratulated by the Commonwealth Minister for Education and Training, Mr John Dawkins, who has pointed out that the Business Council of Australia, the Confederation of Australian Industry and the Tourism Industry Association have all called on Australian employers to follow the Qantas initiative.

So the future is looking brighter for young Australians seeking careers which include awareness of Asian culture and language skills.

Selling to Singapore

Trade is as old as human society. It has certainly got a bit more sophisticated through the ages but the basic objectives have not changed all that much. One person or country has something which another person or country needs. That other person or country, in turn, has something which can be traded in return. Its all a bit like young children swapping comics or badges only on a slightly bigger scale.

Singapore, for instance, is a country with a rapidly growing economy. As an island state with little in the way of raw materials, Singapore is concerned both with its own consumption of goods and the buying of one thing and re-selling it for a profit. In both of these areas, Australia is a major supplier for Singapore.

In the last ten years, Australia's exports to Singapore have doubled and our share of Singapore's import market has grown. While the prestige end of the market with Singapore trade is oil, we are making a big impact in the fresh fruit and vegetables trade. The people of Singapore have developed quite a taste for Australian fruit and vegetables and are now our biggest customer. Five different brands of Australian milk are on sale in Singapore and Singaporean milkmen are leaving Australian milk on Singapore door-steps more and more often.

To see a Holden driving along any of Singapore's streets will not raise an eye-brow any more either as Holden has managed to break into the local car market quite well. Education is another area which is becoming a sellable commodity. There has been a substantial growth in the number of fee paying students from Singapore studying in Australian universities. A number of institutions have set up marketing programs in Singapore just for this purpose.

While things are looking quite bright, business people are on the look-out for any possible ways of improving the position. Things can change very quickly and a competitor can cut you out if you are not on your toes. It's a bit like knowing when to start collecting Phantom comics and when to give up the marble trade.

The lion is the symbol of Singapore.

The world of trade is not just a world of big business as this mask and puppet seller shows.

Byting into the market

The world has come to accept that Thailand is one of the big achievers in the economy stakes. It should come as no surprise that the Thais are now producing personal computers in rapidly increasing numbers.

The Thai equipment is selling on the local market for about half the cost of imported systems. The Tavorn Computer Company of Bangkok is now preparing for a push into the export market.

So it's a case of look out world, here come the Thais.

Faster food

High-tech has entered the fast food business in Singapore. Pizza lovers are now able to speed up their fast food even more. The city's Pizza Hut outlets are now hooked up to a centralised computer network.

A hungry phone call sets off a computer dialogue between the pizza nerve centre and the restaurant nearest the customer.

The Pizza Hut empire is more than pleased with their new venture and are preparing to hit Malaysia with floppy disk food as well.

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Making crime pay

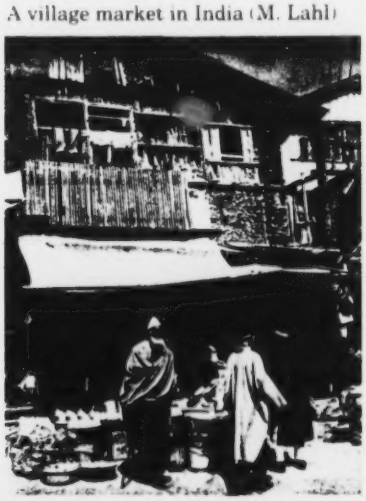
Trade between people and between nations is not always as correct and official as it should be. Smuggling, for instance, is a highly illegal if lucrative form of trade. If the art of trading for profit is to find the right customer for what you have to sell, then the smuggler works in exactly the same way.

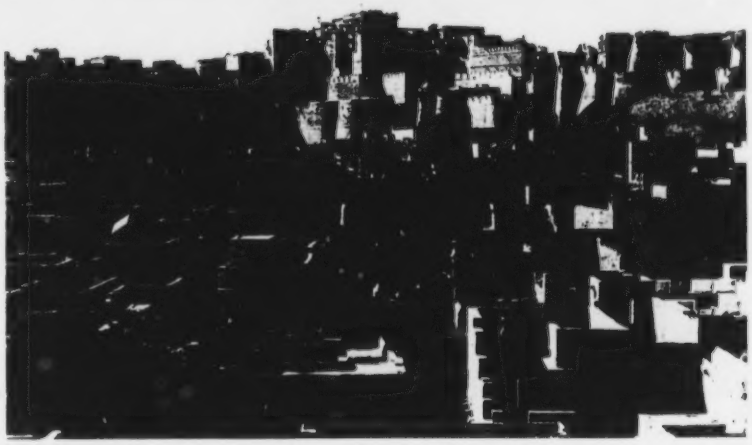
The Sun Temple at Konark in the Indian state of Orissa is being sold piece by piece. Smugglers find the archeological site a rich source of relics for sale to collectors. Trawlers are often used to ship out this illegal cargo.

'We feel the rare antiques lying scattered around the Konark Temple might vanish shortly if the Archeological Survey of India and the Orissa state government fail to protect them from smugglers,' warns Dr Mahendar Singh, a local historian and archeologist.

Some handicraft shops in Orissa are said to be involved in the illegal antique trade. Apparently master craftsmen had 'come by' rare pieces from the temple. They were then copying them and selling the fakes locally and selling the originals overseas.

A village market in India (M. Lahl)





India's ancient culture draws fortune hunters like a magnet.

India is losing millions of dollars worth of antiquities each year. No one really knows the exact cost of this 'trade' but estimates go as high as $125 million in the last hundred years.

Depthnews

Babies for sale

Throughout history there have been a great many bleak periods which saw very little value placed on the lives of human beings. There have been periods when humans were treated as mere property. There are still pockets of slavery existing in some parts of the world today. The trade in humanity was only ended in the United States after a long and bloody civil war in the middle of the last century.

Sadly the ability of some people to exploit the misfortunes of others has not vanished. There are still those who will profit, if they are able, from the poverty of others. One of the least attractive forms of trade still in operation in the world today would have to be the baby trade. A number of Asian countries have thriving baby selling 'industries.'

One of the more recent incidences of this selling of children was reported in the Philippines. A West German syndicate was busy approaching illiterate women who were about to have babies and asking them to consider putting up their child for adoption in return for payment of all hospital bills. After getting the woman to sign various documents which she cannot read, the baby is handed over and later sold overseas through illegal 'adoption' agencies.

It is not only the Philippines which has this trade but many other Asian countries which have large pockets of poverty and illiteracy. Sri Lanka is thought to have 'exported' more than 12 000 babies in the last ten years. Thailand and Malaysia are also sources of highly organised baby rackets. Poverty and in many cases a belief that a better future is possible for their babies are among the reasons for this trade in human beings.

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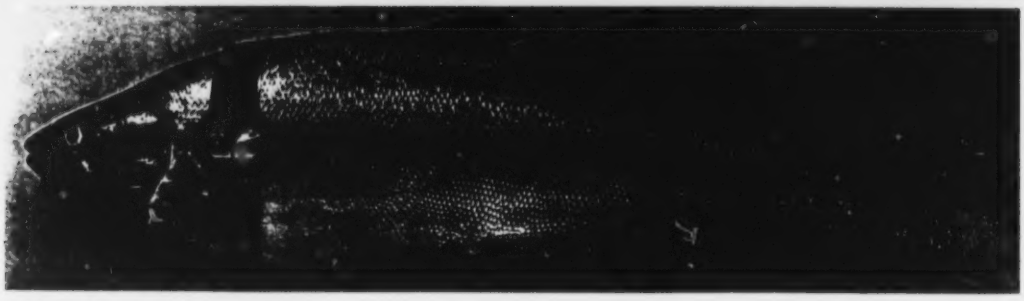
Gone fishing



A blue ribbon export

One of the difficulties that Australia faces as a trading nation is that for far too many years we have relied on a primary base. That means that we have simply shipped out produce to other parts of the world and allowed others to turn these primary goods into finished products and make big profits along the way. There has been much talk in recent years about reorganising Australian industry in order to be able to sell processed goods to the world. The good news is that this is starting to happen.

TASSAL, in southern Tasmania is just such an example. About five years ago this company began setting up what has become a vital and thriving business. They produce, on what has been described as the 'perfect fish farm,' Royal Atlantic Salmon. Now if you are wondering about the 'Royal' then a taste of TASSAL's product will explain it all.

The farm produces 1 000 tonnes of fresh fish each year. Half of this is destined for the export market and is sold extensively in Japan. The Japanese, who know a good salmon when they see or rather taste, one pay well for the Australian fish. The traditional salmon producers in the northern hemisphere are actually being out-done by this team which looks like being good news for Australian trade figures in the future.

The fish begin their journey to Japanese tables in central Tasmania, in a lagoon which was created from a hydro electric power scheme quite a few years ago. After the fish have spent their 'childhood' in these quiet waters they are taken to a sort of half-way house where they get used to sea-water and finally to the farm where they grow to adult-hood before becoming valuable little export earners.

The beauty of this operation is that not only are the fish grown in Australia, they are completely processed here — providing valuable jobs for some hundred people at present. The bulk of the production is geared to fresh salmon, although 200 tonnes are smoked each year in traditional fashion. The result is that there is almost no waste of these valuable wriggly characters.

The Japanese, are fussy customers and are prepared to pay big money for the right product. What they are assured of with the TASSAL salmon is quality and freshness. It is common for a Japanese customer to be able to buy salmon which was swimming around just 20 hours earlier — which is pretty impressive considering the distances and the work needed to prepare and pack the tasty morsels. However, if Australia is to lift its trade performance, from being a supplier of raw materials to a major competitor for world markets, then more operations like this one are needed.

It's also nice to think that the world of trade and exports can be such a tasty way to go — it needn't be dreary at all, and with just the faintest touch of lemon, this export is a long way from being dull.

The salmon grow to maturity in dozens of pens like these.

How much is that?

All this talk of trade can so easily give an impression of high-flying business people sitting around boardroom tables making top decisions and talking in terms of million dollar deals. This is one end of the market but it's by no means the whole story.

Imported goods come in all shapes and sizes. Just about every town in Australia has its 'Asian Emporium' which stock all manner of exotic bits and pieces. For many years these shops were peered at by Australians with just a little suspicion. On their shelves were odd-looking food items in packets, jars and bottles which nobody was quite sure how to use.

Then, slowly at first, and more recently at a faster pace, Australians began to stop peering and started to try out some of these exotic things. And guess what? People found out that they had been missing out on a lot. Today Asian foods, often imported from Hong Kong or India, China or Indonesia are in the cupboards of a great many Australian homes.

It is not just in the world of the kitchen that Asian imports have begun to find a place. How many homes today have cane or rattan furniture? Where did they come from from? The answer is from enterprising people selling to a foreign market — in this case the Australian market.

Business and trade can take many forms. Imported goods from Asia are freely available anywhere in Australia.

There are so many different things available today which began their life in an Asian country. It all helps to make life that little bit more interesting. If one flips through government lists of statistics about trade between Australia and Asia it sometimes looks a trifle dreary. So many million dollars worth of coal or wool sold. So many million pairs of shoes or shirts bought.

But each lump of coal or each sheep which is shorn represents much more than just a list of figures and so does every set of chopsticks and stick of incense. Its people that make trade work and as we get to know our neighbours a little better trade can take on a much more personal touch.

Imports come in all shapes and sizes.

Export or else!

The importance of trade and to win export dollars is shown very clearly if we look at a small nation like Sri Lanka. In the late 1970s the slogan 'export or perish' was put forward in Sri Lanka. Its traditional exports of tea, rubber and coconut were dropping fast and things looked very grim.

In 1980 traditional exports earned Sri Lanka $360 million, while other exports totalled about $260 million. By 1988 these traditional exports had reached $600 million but its other export sales soared to more than $1 billion. Things started small and grew.

One case is that of a maker of wooden toys and furniture. He started in his own home. Later he went overseas with his savings and stayed for just one day in order to find customers. Today his factory is employing more than 400 workers.

Another case is a Chinese black mushroom farm. It is in a suburban part of Colombo and now sells 300 metric tonnes to Singapore and Japan.

And so the stories unfold. International trade like this has created 25 000 new jobs and earned the country much needed currency.

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'An idea whose time has come'

Ministers from 12 nations met in Canberra in early November to take the first steps towards building a workable Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum. What was significant about this meeting was the rare sense of collective determination to make things work which was shown.

For the first time, foreign ministers from Japan, South Korea, the ASEAN countries, the US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, talked together about ways of reaching common policies concerning the dramatic realignment in the world's economic order.

Among other things the meeting agreed to look at ways of increasing regional trade, investment and technology between the rich and poor countries. APEC is set to meet again in 1990 in Singapore and once more in 1991 in Seoul.

Progress will not be marked by break-neck speed as the nations represented all have specific issues they wish to see in the forefront. Culturally, politically and economically there are few common threads, but, as the Prime Minister pointed out at the beginning of the meeting the concept is an unprecedented experiment.

Australia and New Zealand have much to gain from a successful coming together of countries in the region. Despite our geographical proximity to Asia, we tended to ignore the potential of the Asian market. Australia has only recently accepted the fact that the United States and Britain are not necessarily 'natural' trading partners.

A consequence of this tendency has been that both Australia and New Zealand are today falling behind the booming Asian economies. The economies of the Asian nations need Australia less and less. Were it not for Japan's appetite for Australian raw materials, we would be in a very shaky position.

However, the realisation has developed that we need to cement a place for ourselves in this boom area for us to survive as a trading nation.

Japan, as the leading economy in the world is more than keen to play a role in APEC and to see that it is successful. Another key figure at the Canberra meeting was the United States. The Americans, too, are anxious to secure a position in the region and to play a major role in any new alignment of economic forces.

It is clear that Australia would have a role in such an organisation, but just how major a role remains open to debate. Australia's resources ensure it a place but fears are already being expressed that Australia, if it fails to get its industry act together, could well be a minor player in this new economic formation. The future is rapidly approaching as far as Australia is concerned. It can no longer simply rely on being a market for raw materials which are transformed into profits for buyer countries.

The APEC concept will certainly tie us into an influential trade lobby at just the time when Australia needs a little extra clout. The APEC meeting came about after Australian Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, put feelers out to prospective parties early in the year. The response was staggering. Clearly it seems APEC is an idea whose time has come.

The future for Australia lies with our Asian neighbours. That much is now clear. Issues of trade and of the growing interdependence we have with the region is the subject of this, our first issue for 1990.

Asian language students prepare to leave Australia for Japan, China and Korea. QANTAS, who appreciate the need to equip ourselves to trade effectively with Asia, has provided these cadetships now for three years.

Trade — Australia and Asia

Aims

- To investigate the importance to the Australian economy of trade with Asia.
- To explore reasons for changes in Australia's trading priorities.
- To apply a range of data-gathering and analysis techniques.
- To provide opportunities for development of presentation skills.

Key concepts

trade, imports, exports, balance of trade, trading blocs, interdependence, exchange rate, terms of trade, foreign debt, marketing, commodity.

Focus questions — Possible activities

What do we mean by trade and why do people trade?

Use the dictionary to look up meanings of the word trade.

Discuss the different family occupations of the class members. List the products or services that they provide and then make a second list showing all the goods and services that families in Australia feel are necessary. Compare this with those who live in a more self-sufficient way.

Discuss the role of barter and the many forms of currency used by different societies throughout history. Make up a glossary of trading terms. Include terms such as imports, exports, balance of trade, trading blocs, interdependence, exchange rate, terms of trade and foreign debt.

What groups make up the major trading blocs?

Find out what countries belong to major trading blocs such as the EEC and Comecon and discuss why countries group together for trading purposes.

Using statistics and library resources investigate the impact of the EEC and the effect of the United Kingdom's entry into the EEC on Australia's trading practices. Depict the information gathered in a variety of ways.

What are Australia's chief imports and exports?

Use Australian yearbooks and other ABS statistics to prepare graphs and diagrams to show information on Australian imports and exports.

Who are our major trading partners?

Use statistical information and the worksheets provided in this issue to investigate which countries are our major trading partners and what goods we trade with them. Using this information discuss the trends that have become evident and extrapolate about future trade directions.

What special importance has trade with Asian countries assumed?

Make a list of all the goods that originated in Asia which are found in the students' homes and in the school. Examine the data collected and make conclusions about the importance of Australia's trade with Asia.

Discuss the importance of the NICs (newly industrialised countries) and of the ASEAN nations to Australian trade.

Individually or in groups make case studies of Australian trade with countries such as Japan, China, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Other students may concentrate on case studies of particular commodities. Share the findings with the whole class through displays and talks.

Discuss the problems for Australia of the relative decline in the worth of our primary exports.

What is AUSTRADE and what special role does it have in increasing trade opportunities between Australia and the nations of Asia?

Investigate the role of Austrade and in particular its activities in Asia.

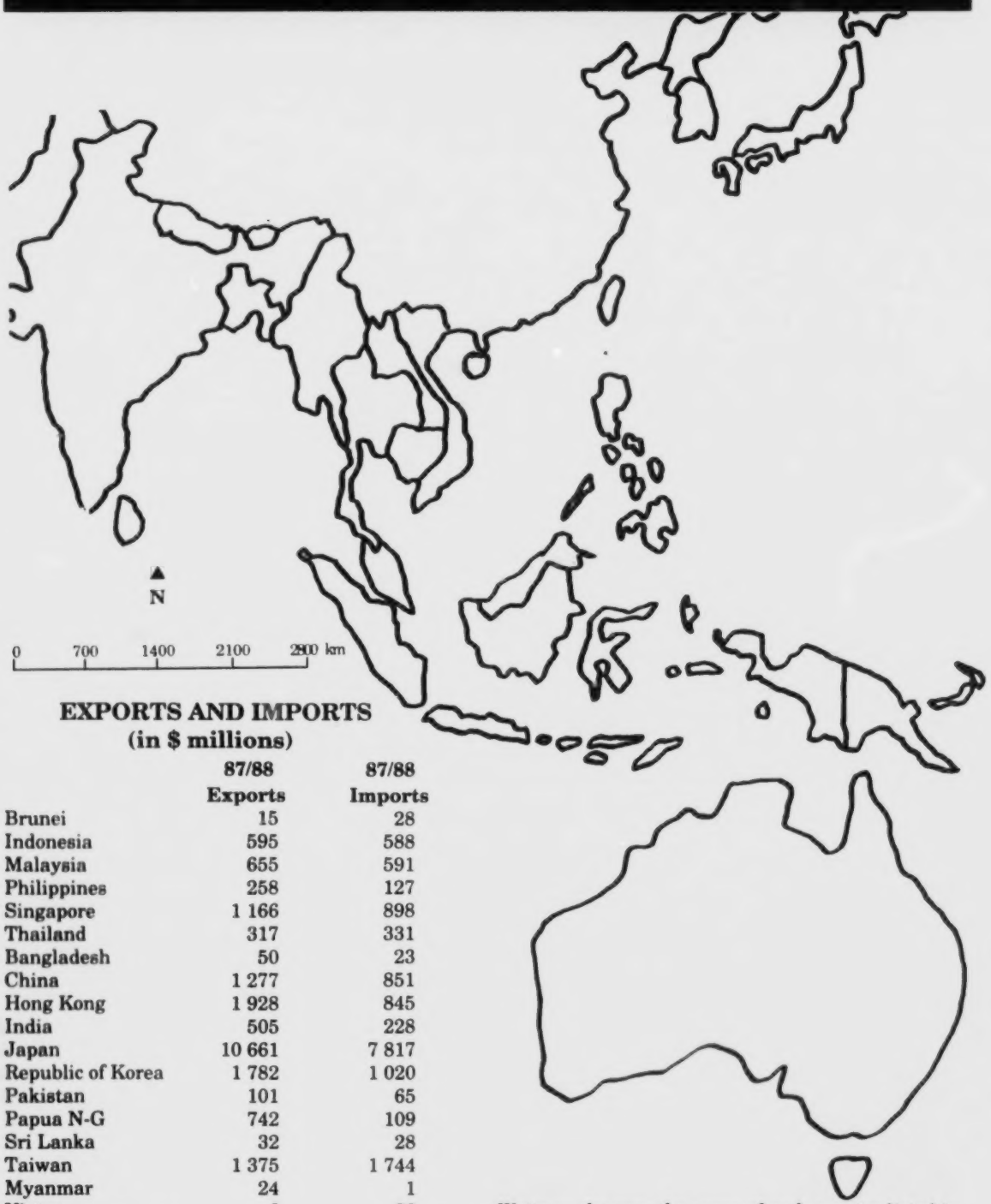
Discuss the strategies employed by Austrade in improving our knowledge and trading viability with Asian clients.

Make a list of the common pitfalls that have confronted Australians trying to market goods to Asian business people and discuss ways these may be avoided.

Seek information on successful and unusual products sold to Asian clients.

(*Balance of Trade* — Video and workbook package produced by Austrade is and excellent resource for this section.)

Australia's trading relations with Asia



EXPORTS AND IMPORTS
(in $ millions)

	87/88 Exports	87/88 Imports
Brunei	15	28
Indonesia	595	588
Malaysia	655	591
Philippines	258	127
Singapore	1 166	898
Thailand	317	331
Bangladesh	50	23
China	1 277	851
Hong Kong	1 928	845
India	505	228
Japan	10 661	7 817
Republic of Korea	1 782	1 020
Pakistan	101	65
Papua N-G	742	109
Sri Lanka	32	28
Taiwan	1 375	1 744
Myanmar	24	1
Vietnam	6	20
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	89	–
TOTAL	**21 578**	**15 314**

Write on the map the name of each country listed in the table. Calculate whether the 'balance of trade' is in Australia's favour or not. Write each calculated figure on the map next to each country's name.

Foreign Trade, Australia — Comparitive and Summary Tables, 1987-88, Australian Bureau of Statistics

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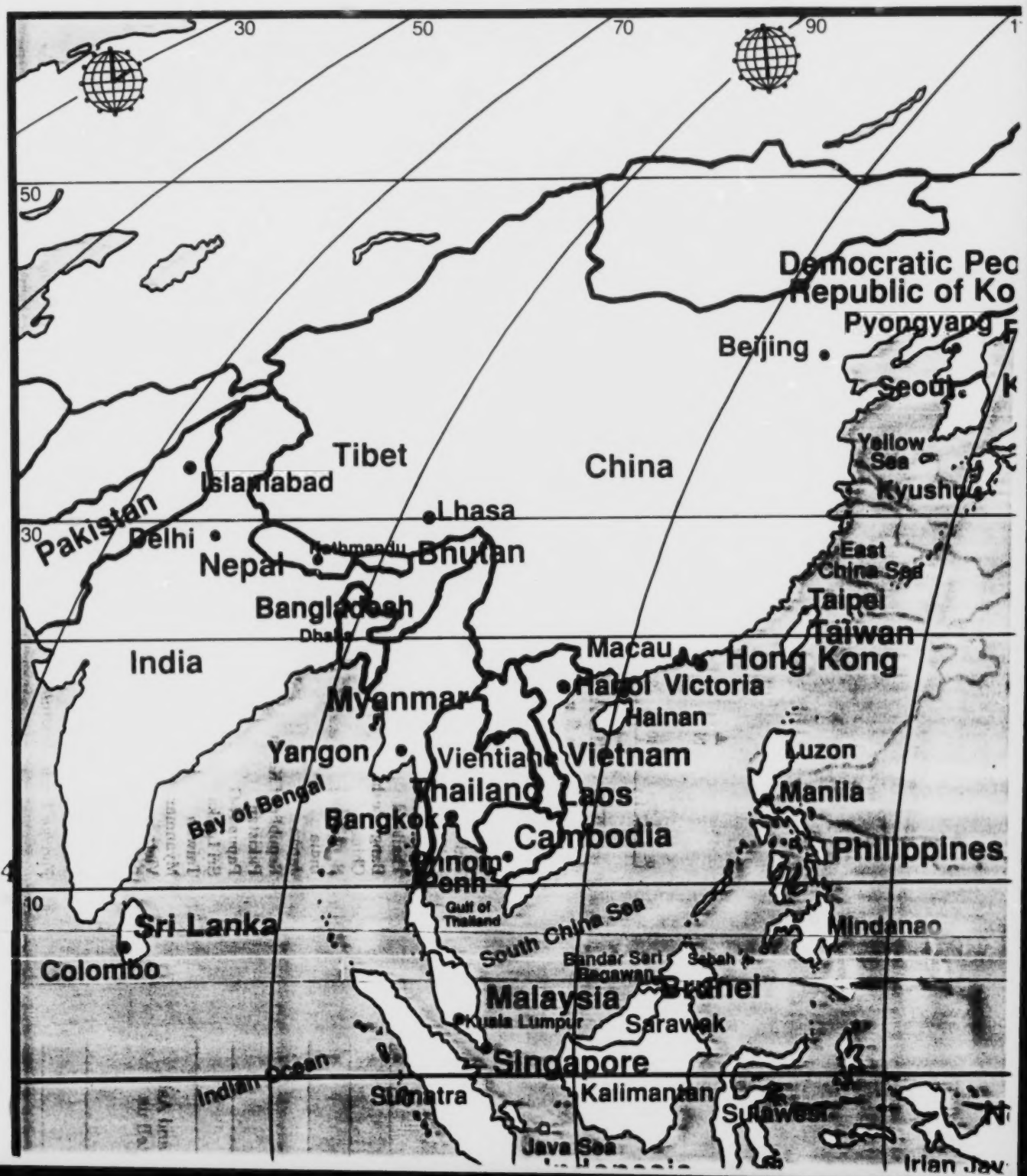

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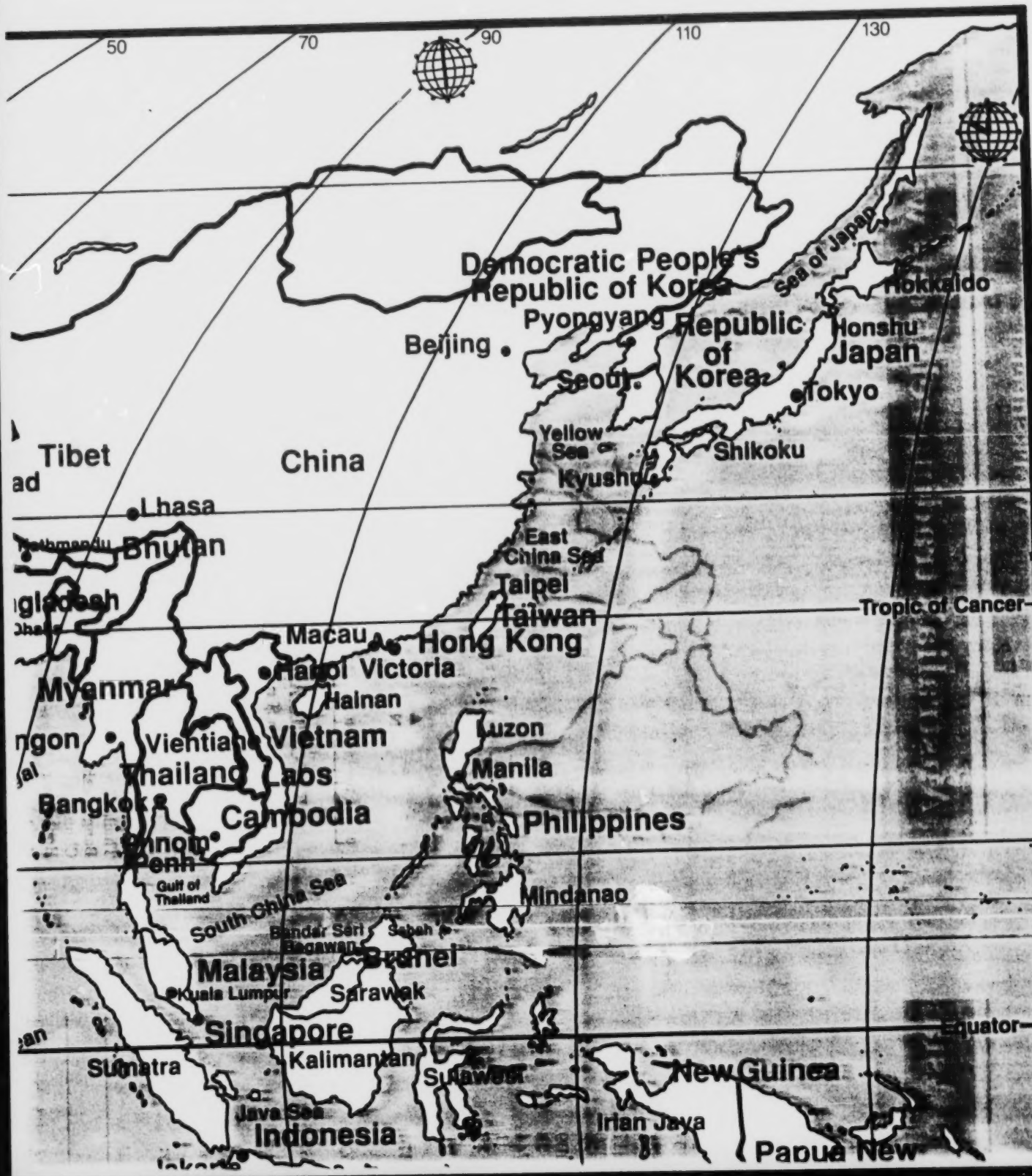

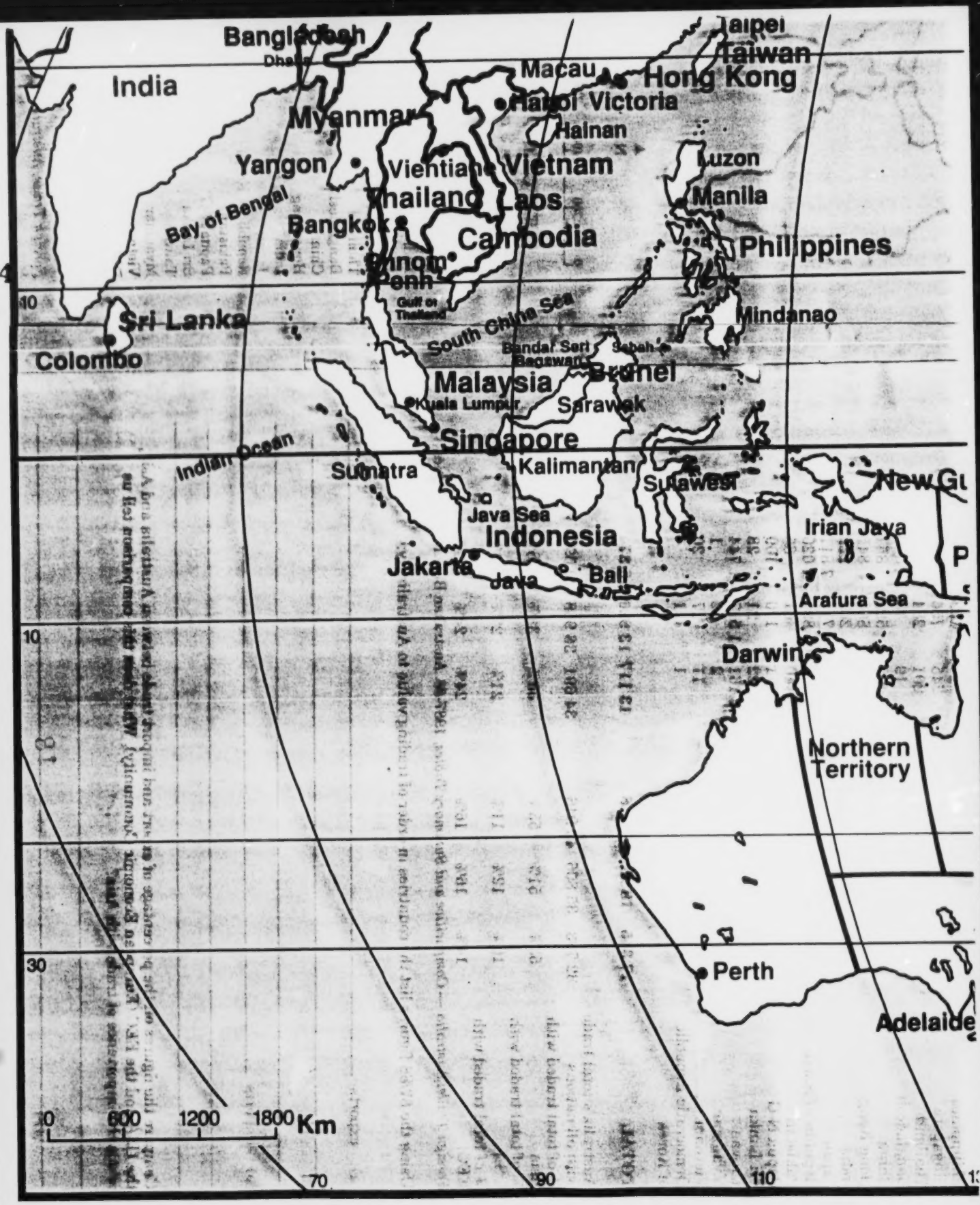

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Worksheet 2

Australia's trading relations with Asia

	Exports in $ millions			Imports in $ millions		
	85/86	86/87	87/88	85/86	86/87	87/88
Brunei	10	13	15	–	32	28
Indonesia	522	528	595	209	311	588
Malaysia	516	592	655	325	410	591
Philippines	204	259	258	123	113	127
Singapore	728	779	1 166	745	756	898
Thailand	164	224	317	201	284	331
Bangladesh	28	41	50	19	18	23
China	1 497	1 592	1 277	435	589	851
Hong Kong	727	1 087	1 928	676	800	845
India	428	425	505	171	203	228
Japan	9 308	9 083	10 661	8 248	7 710	7 817
Republic of Korea	1 319	1 504	1 782	557	891	1 020
Pakistan	175	101	101	40	61	65
Papua N-G	562	651	742	171	190	109
Sri Lanka	61	28	32	22	21	28
Taiwan	1 061	1 229	1 375	1 161	1 517	1 744
Myanmar	2	10	24	2	2	1
Vietnam	7	5	6	11	17	20
Democratic Republic of Korea	26	30	89	1	1	–
TOTAL	**17 345**	**18 181**	**21 578**	**13 117**	**13 926**	**15 374**
Australia's total trade with all nations	32 793	35 806	40 946	34 691	36 988	40 591
% of total traded with Asia	53%	51%	53%	38%	38%	38%
% of total traded with USA	10%	12%	11%	21%	22%	21%
% of total traded with EEC	14%	16%	16%	24%	24%	24%

Foreign Trade, Australia — Comparitive and Summary Tables, 1987-88, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Using the 87/88 figures list the countries in order of trading value to Australia by:

(a) exports _____

_____

_____

(b) imports _____

_____

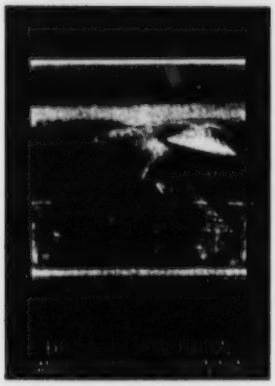
_____

Compare the figures on the percentage of export and import trade between Australia and Asia, the USA and the EEC (European Economic Community). What does this comparison tell us about the importance of trade with Asia?

_____

_____

New products from Asia Wise



Asia Wise

With 1989 now behind us and the first full year of Asia Wise completed, we have, in conjunction with the ABC, produced *Asia Wise* . The ABC has produced an accompanying 60-minute video.

The year just gone was one marked by change as the countries of Asia moved toward the 1990s. These changes were presented to Australian students by Asia Wise.

Now we are able to offer a 44-page, full colour magazine focusing on the changes which took place during 1989. The magazine looks at 1989 from four different perspectives. Political developments and the environmental questions are featured, as is the changing world of youth. Contrasts between rich and poor, developing and developed nations and the factor of tradition in a changing world are also points of focus for *Asia Wise*.

It also highlights the effect these changes have on Australia as we face the challenges of the 1990s with our Asian neighbours. Much of the material in *Asia Wise* appeared in the monthly student magazines but has been updated. Substantial new material has been included in order to make the publication effective and relevant.

Asia Wise retails at $9.99.

Asia Wise Workbook

This new publication is a compilation of student worksheets from *Asia Wise Teachers' Sections*. The booklet also includes a new country profile for each country which was examined during 1989.

The countries which Asia Wise featured during 1989 were China, Indo-China, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines and Thailand. As well as these overviews of specific countries, Asia Wise exposed students to thematic approaches to Asia including issues devoted to Asian Australians, Food and Agriculture and Festivals and Leisure. The *Asia Wise Workbook* also features a number of useful curriculum ideas and two games — the Travel to Asia game and the Asia Wise game.

Important resource materials have been collected into one useful publication which teachers have at their finger-tips. Teachers are free to reproduce these maps, worksheets and other resources in this booklet.

Also retailing at $9.99 it is another useful resource.

Asia Wise publications are available from

Asia Wise
252 Argyle Street
Hobart Tasmania 7000
(002) 307654 fax (002) 310236

World issues
People in society

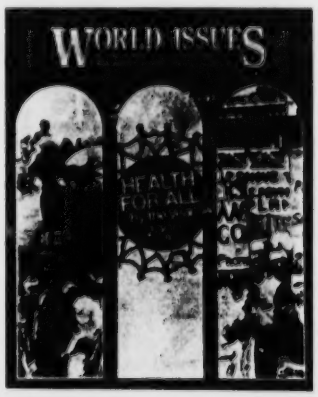
Koutsoukis, A.J., 1988, *World issues*, third edition, Longman Cheshire, $14.95.

World issues considers the causes and consequences of social, economic and environmental issues. This well presented book was first published in 1982, but has been substantially updated to meet recent curriculum changes and includes a new chapter on contemporary Australian society.

World issues explores, in a most readable way, Australia's geography, world environment issues and contemporary society. The main strength of this book lies, however, in its examination of economic factors. A valuable chapter 'opens up' the economy and gives concise explanations of just what an economy is and how it works.

Later in his book, A. J. Koutsoukis looks at economic systems and issues. The author examines both capitalist and socialist economic systems and gives an even-handed appraisal of both advantages and disadvantages within each system.

This valuable book presents students with an accessible view of world issues. Each of the seven chapters includes a number of activities for classroom use, including research questions and questions from the text itself.



For your information

Development dictionary

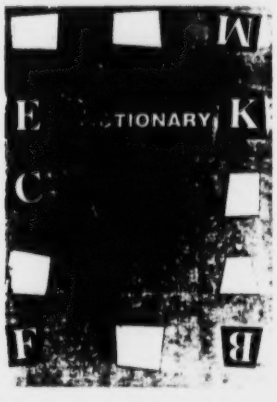
This dictionary was produced by the Ideas Centre on behalf of the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB). The booklet aims to provide students, teachers and others with a general introduction to aid and development terms.

Written by Lyn Waddell and Frank Hutchinson in 1989, *The Development Dictionary,* has been enthusiastically received by individuals and groups interested in aid and development issues.

Produced as a glossary of terms, its 32 pages define, in succinct language, nearly 200 entries. Acronyms no longer confuse and perplex and uniform perceptions of common terminology can be insured with this reference.

If you are interested in using a complimentary copy of this excellent publication for use in your classrom contact the

Development Education Officer
AIDAB
GPO Box 887
Canberra ACT 2601
(062) 764 000



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Working to make exports compete

Excerpt from a speech by the Minister for Trade Negotiations, Mr Michael Duffy, 6 July, 1989.

Australian business is looking increasingly towards developments taking place in the Pacific rim and exploring the export opportunities that they offer. Austrade has identified eight major strategies for Australian business to capture these growth opportunities. These include, raw materials and energy sources that have been the backbone of our export trade. We must obviously continue to expand our current markets and develop new ones. Japan, Korea and Taiwan will be the key markets. But we must also look to do more to process these materials in Australia or under Australian control. A greater application of technology in our industry and international joint ventures will be key tools.

Australian companies need to exploit other opportunities for high-value-added products. We are already competitve in a surprising range of niche markets in Europe and North America — medical, scientific equipment, avionics and biotechnology. Australia is also in a position to do very well in leisure goods in the region if we market ourselves skilfully and aggressively.

Regional governments, the Asia Development Bank and the World Bank are investing billions of dollars in infrastructure development in our region. This is bringing major consulting and capital goods opportunities for Australian companies.

All of this indicates that opportunities exist for Australia to broaden its export base and get into the high-growth areas of processed products, high technology and services.

The Monthly Record, July 1989.

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Korea: two nations — one people

For many people Korea was a name which until quite recently meant little. The Seoul Olympics changed all that and we became much more aware of Korea — or at least part of it. Korea remains a divided land, split into two separate countries.

When we consider Korea, we often tend to ignore the northern part which is called the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and which remains shrouded in mystery and virtually cut off from the rest of the world. However, Korea as a whole, has a history dating back many centuries. Recorded history begins in the seond century BC. The Korean peninsula was unified in the year AD 668 under the rule of the Silla Kingdom. This period lasted until 918 when the Koryo Dynasty was established. In 1392 the Yi Dynasty took control and ruled until 1910 when the country was annexed by Japan. So a divided Korea is a new thing and one which is unusual for the Korean people.

The era before the Japanese invasion was marked by great advances in learning. A high degree of sophistication grew up in the arts of printing, the creation of fine porcelain, as well as medicine, science and astronomy. Buddhism flourished as the state religion until Confucianism replaced it with the coming of the Yi Dynasty.

The history of Korea took a sharp turn in 1910 with the Japanese occupation and an even sharper one in 1945 when the Japanese surrendered to the Americans in the south and the Soviets in the north. This dual occupation set the scene for today's divided Korea.

Negotiations between the USA and the USSR to unify the country broke down in 1947. The USA put the question to the United Nations, which resolved to hold elections. The Soviet side refused to recognise the legality of this and so, UN sponsored elections were held only in the south. This resulted in the coming to power of Dr Syngman Rhee as President of the Republic of Korea (ROK) on 15 August 1948. In the north the DPRK was proclaimed on 9 September 1948 with President Kim Il Sung as leader.

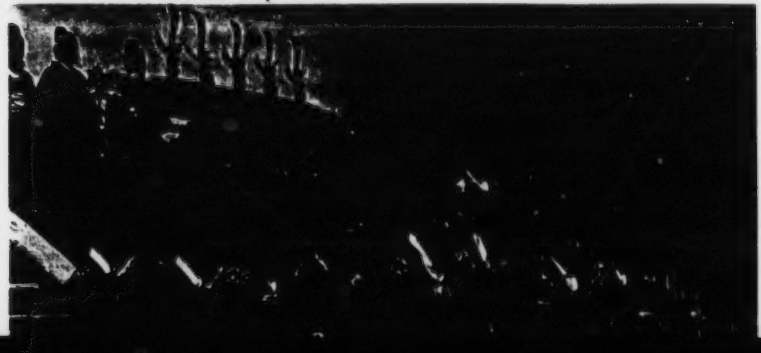
Where once a united Korea had existed there were now two separate countries with very different ideologies. The South was pro-capitalist and the North was equally pro-communist. This was a recipe for trouble and it finally erupted in June 1950 with armed conflict.

(Korean Overseas Information Service)

At first the war was between the army of the DPRK and the ROK with UN troops supporting the ROK. Sixteen countries, including Australia sent troops to fight this war. In October 1950, the fighting escalated as China sent troops to aid the DPRK. Fighting ended in 1953 with the result being a divided country, cut by a heavily guarded border. Thousands of US troops remain permanently in South Korea and relations remain poor.

The future for Korea — whether united or separate is unsure. The great cultural traditions and centuries of unity make many Koreans wish for the unification of Korea. This dream may take a long time to come true. In the meantime, life goes on and the two countries continue to develop along quite different lines.

(Korean National Tourism Corporation)



The hermit kingdom

North Korea — the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as it is officially called — is one of the world's most sheltered countries. It has adopted a peculiar brand of socialism and has chosen to cut itself and its people off from outside influences and contacts.

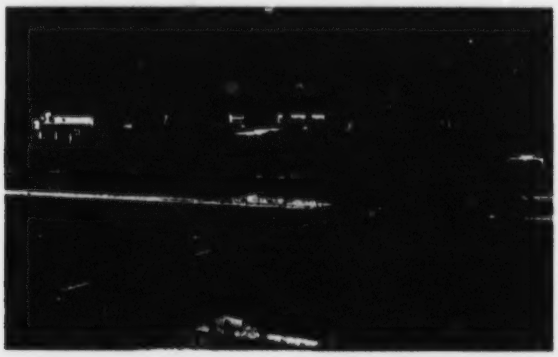
Maps of the Korean peninsula which are produced in the north invariably ignore the south or refer to the DPRK as being bordered on the north by China and the USSR and the east, west and south by sea. This ability to either ignore the southern Republic or at least to claim it as part of one Korea is not really all that unusual however as the Republic of Korea in the south shows on its maps the city of Pyongyang — the capital of the DPRK as being a provincial city and not a world capital at all. Such is the relationship between the two rival states.

The DPRK is often referred to in the West as the 'hermit kingdom' because of its isolation. It is ruled by the Worker's Party of Korea with its leader President Kim Il Sung. He has ruled the country since the establishment of the DPRK in 1948. Originally Kim's regime had extremely close relations with the USSR but since the 1950s has been relatively self-reliant and it loudly proclaims itself as being completely independent in all things.

Opposition to the ruling party and to Kim Il Sung is virtually non-existent. At first purges of opposition forces were conducted and later a careful promotion of Kim as being a virtual super-human was carried out. The success of this has been complete. A most bizarre personality cult developed which officially describes the President as 'the great leader'.

This official 'hero-worship' of Kim Il Sung and an acceptance that his personality and abilities are beyond the reach of ordinary people was taken a step further when he had his son Kim Jong Il elevated to the number two spot in the country and announced that he will succeed him as leader. The son's official title is the 'dear leader'. He is being promoted as the inheritor of his father's amazing abilities.

Pyongyang is a carefully designed modern city.



On the banks of the River Taedong, Pyongyang

The DPRK still remains as tightly closed as ever, but it is beginning to admit small numbers of tourists. In 1989 it went to enormous expense to host the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students which some say was its answer to the Seoul Olympics. Many students from all over the world — including Australia — came to the nation's capital, Pyongyang. Many delegates were very impressed with the event and found the people they met cheerful, open and friendly. However, many found it frustrating to be kept apart from the local population. It must have been something of a shock to the citizens of the DPRK to see so many strange faces. The people have little knowledge or understanding of life outside their country as few travel and very little is reported about the West or even other socialist countries. There is an official line which says the DPRK is the best place on earth and indeed is a 'people's paradise'.

It must be remembered that, for all the peculiarities of the style of government of the DPRK, living standards are, in some respects, quite good. Housing is cheap and social services, health and education are all free. Pyongyang, the capital, is a spacious modern city which had to be completely rebuilt after the war.

The economy grew rapidly after the war but in recent years has shown little capacity for growth. Today the DPRK suffers from debt, a stagnant economy and a large military budget. Many would welcome an opening up of the economy as in China but this is being resisted. Trade with the West is, however, growing and with it will come further contacts with other lifestyles which may well create potential difficulties for the hermit kingdom in years to come.

Developments in the 'land of morning calm'

The Republic of Korea (ROK), better known as South Korea has been a front runner in economic development within the region. The Republic has become one of the strongest and fastest growing economies in the world.

Ever since the end of the Second World War the ROK and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the north have developed along very different lines. The conflict between the two is a very bitter one. The Korean War was in many ways a civil war and it is difficult for people to forgive and forget after such an experience. The ROK regards the DPRK as aggressive and dangerous and points to a number of terrorist attacks over the years. The DPRK has its own reasons for fearing the ROK because of the massive military power that the US forces in Korea are capable of unleashing. Like the North, maps produced in the south of the Korean peninsula disregard the North and refer to Pyongyang, the capital of the North as a provincial city. Such are the realities of Korea today.

The Republic has been widely criticised for the way it handles internal dissent. In particular the months leading up to the resignation of Chun Doo-Hwan in 1987 saw many violent street demonstrations, and many feel that the over-reaction by police helped bring about his downfall. Today many former political detainees such as Kim Dae Jung now sit in the country's National Assembly.

The current leader, President Roh Tae-Woo inherited many difficulties when he came to power. Since 1972, the military had backed regimes that restricted political freedoms, and when Roh's predecessor, Chun Doo-Hwan seized power in 1980, he crushed a revolt in the city of Kwangju. This caused heavy loss of life. While many welcomed the restoration of some freedoms, others remain uneasy about the legacy of the past. They want Chun punished and the Kwangju massacre fully investigated.

While it has been student unrest and calls for greater democracy which have captured the headlines in recent times, it is the post-war economic boom and the Republic's continued strong relationship with the USA which have been central to the development of the South.

Western influences are very obvious (Korean Overseas Information Service).

Seoul (Korean Overseas Information Service).

The end of the Second World War saw the Korean peninsula in ruins. Reconstruction was held back with the Korean War between the North and South which left utter devastation in its wake. For the South the task of rebuilding their shattered country and economy became a priority. However, it was not until 1961 that the economic take-off really got under way. Until that time the country was heavily dependent on US aid.

Since the early 1960s the economy has been in a virtual state of continual boom, with a heavy emphasis on export-based industries. This boom has not been without a cost to the people of the Republic. Working conditions for many remain poor with long hours worked for low pay, but the ROK also boasts some of the most modern factories and up-to-date technology in the world. Trade union activity was suppressed for many years and one of the first results of the 1987 restoration of democratic rights was a wave of strikes and success in getting wage increases. As the ROK has become more prosperous, the government has expanded social services, introducing health care and pensions.

In the early stages of the ROK's economic development there was a push toward big industries. Today names such as Hyundai, Daewoo and Samsung still dominate the world scene but it has left weaknesses in the medium-sized business sector which the government is trying to solve at present.

The USA remains Korea's most influential ally and trading partner. Thirty six percent of Korea's export market goes to the USA. The Americans remain important from the military point of view as well with 40 000 troops permanently stationed in the South. The US government has just announced a reduction in this presence, but a state of wariness always exists between the South and North.

Seoul, the capital of the ROK, is an ancient city although the visitor could be forgiven for thinking it brand new. The city was re-built after the war.

Today the people of Korea are caught between the East and West, between the modern industrial society that Korea has become and the cultural heritage of a Korea which goes back for centuries.

Considering Korea

The Korean people

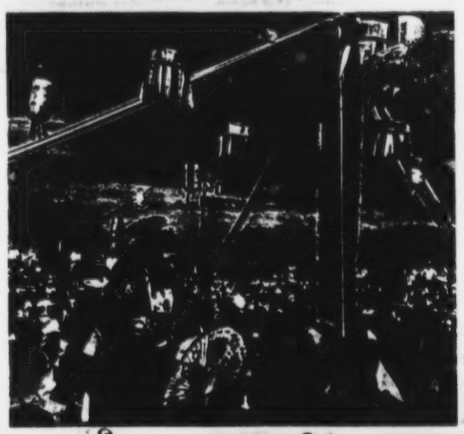
The Korean people are similar in appearance to the people of Japan and north China. The first inhabitants of Korea were hunters and gatherers who spread southwards and into Japan. These first migrants came about five thousand years ago. Evidence shows that the Koreans contributed significantly to Japanese ethnic and cultural development. They have been a unified people sharing one culture and language for many hundreds of years. The Korean language belongs to the Altaic group of languages — a group that includes Turkish, Mongolian and Manchu. It is very similar in construction to Japanese, and like Japanese, it has borrowed a lot of words from Chinese.

Philosophies and religious belief

One big difference between the societies of North and South Korea can be seen in relation to religious beliefs. The earliest Korean religion was Shamanism. Buddhism entered Korea more than 1 500 years ago and later came a time of major Confucianist influence. In the modern era, Christianity has also had a strong impact. The influence of all of these can often be seen in the relgious beliefs of the average Korean today.

The communist north of Korea waged a relentless campaign against religion and today it is a rarity to find anyone openly professing religious belief. In the South, which has a population of some 40 million, there are more than seven million Buddhists and less than a million Confucianists. There are also more than one and a half million Catholics and five million Protestants in South Korea. Christianity faced persecution in previous times but was revived in this century.

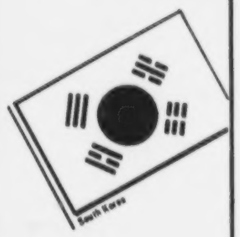
As well as these beliefs there are religions whose origins are specifically Korean. The oldest of these is Taejonggyo which dates back some 4 000 years. The central theme in this religion is that Hanul, the creator came to earth in human form as Tangun, the father, teacher and king of the Korean people. It went into a decline and by the 15th century had virtually disappeared.



The arts in Korea

Korea has a highly developed national culture which division has not affected. It developed over many centuries and includes a rich literary and musical history which has been influenced by neighbouring China. Music is a vital part of life in Korea and it takes a range of forms. Much of the traditional music forms follow religious customs with Confucian ritual music, Buddhist chants and court music featuring alongside traditional Korean folk music.

Metal drums, gongs and a type of oboe accompany Korean folk dances.



While the Korean peninsula is today officialy comprised of two countries and very real differences have emerged in the ways these two nations have developed, the people remain Korean. The centuries of cultural development make these divisions a little artificial. To look at a few of these cultural areas proves this point.

Clothing

Western-style clothing is now the norm in Korea although some people and particularly women, depending on the occasion, still wear traditiona dress. For women this is a very short flared blouse crossed in the front and tied with long ribbons and a long, high-waisted skirt. Traditional male costume consists of a short loose shirt-jacket with long full sleeves and wide, baggy trousers which are tied at the ankle.

Festivals and holidays

The big days of celebration and holidays are also quite different in both parts of the Korean peninsula.

In the South, apart from New Year's Day, the Lunar New Year is a major festival. The first day of March is celebrated as Independence Movement Day. This marks the anniversary of the independence movement against the Japanese occupation. Arbor Day, on 5 April sees people all over the Republic planting trees in accordance with the country's reforestation program. Children's Day is celebrated each 5 May. Other festivals and holidays are devoted to Memorial Day, Constitution Day, Liberation Day, Armed Forces Day and Christmas.

Special celebrations surround the Feast of Lanterns which is Buddha's birthday as well as Harvest Moon Festival and *Han-gul* which commemorates the invention of Korea's unique alphabet script in AD 1446.

The big occasions for the North follow a different theme with only New Year's Day and Liberation Day being held in common with the South. Holidays in the North also include the dates of the birth of Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il, May Day, the day of the foundation of the Workers Party of Korea and the foundation of the DPRK as well as Socialist Constitution Day.

Sports and games

Just about any major international sport is played in the modern Korea, while some traditional Korean sports are still popular and are making a big come back. The most famous Korean sport would undoubtedly be *taekwondo*, the self defence martial art which has been developing over the past 2 000 years. There are 1.8 million members of the Taekwondo Association of Korea. There are some 22 million people in more than 100 countries who practise this martial art.

Another popular traditional sport is *ssirum* which is an ancient form of wrestling. This sport is at least 1 500 years old. It is experiencing a rise in popularity because of its simplicity, making it more of a 'fun' sport.

There are many traditional Korean games which are still enjoyed in the country. One such game is *yut* which is a New Year's game. It is played on a board. Four sticks are used a bit like dice. Players or teams throw these sticks and move their counters according to the way the sticks fall.

Another game which maintains its popularity is see-saw which is a traditional girls game and is played on the lunar New Year's Day. A board is placed on a low stone or bag of rice straw. The players stand upright, jump in the air and come down hard. It is said to have begun in the days when women were not permitted to leave home and so, in this way were able to take a peek at the world over the walls of their gardens.

The gentle art of eating

In Korea mealtimes are an important time and the business of eating is generally conducted in a serious manner. Table manners are considered to be very important.

A meal is traditionally eaten in near silence as Koreans feel it more important to quietly enjoy the quality of the food and to concentrate on the tastes before them. When the business side of the evening is over people can relax and have a good discussion.

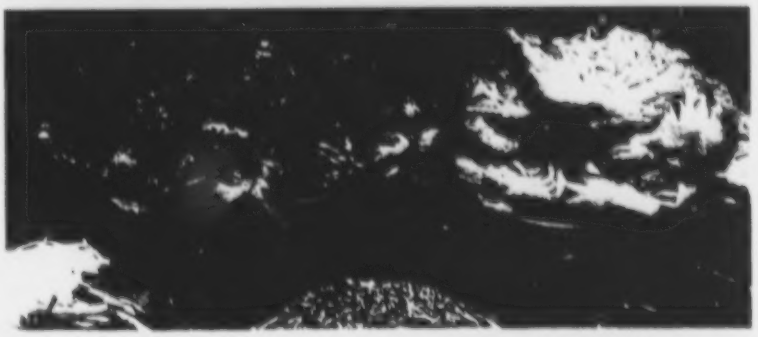
It is thought to be rather rude for a guest to pick up a spoon before the older person is seated and has started to eat. Only spoons and chopsticks are to be used. If you ever eat a traditional meal with a Korean family and manage to empty your plate or bowl, your host will keep refilling it until you and the bowl are both full. It's all part of Korean hospitality.

In general every Korean meal includes rice and *kimch'i*. This most Korean of dishes has been officially classified as a national treasure. Soup is also an important part of any meal. Side dishes often include fish, meat and vegetables. Fruit is generally served as a dessert. An average meal will consist of three or four dishes but on special occasions dinner may well mean 12 or more courses.

A traditional meal is eaten at a low table with the guests sitting on cushions on the floor. Individual bowls of rice and soup are served. Other dishes are placed in the middle of the table within reach of the diners.

Perhaps you might like to try out some Korean cooking? Here are a couple of traditional Korean recipes, including the famous 'national treasure', kimch'i.

A normal Korean meal has a number of courses (Korean Overseas Information Service).



Korea's unique dish, Kimch'i (Korean Overseas Information Service)

Pulgoki

Ingredients:
lean beef, thinly sliced
1 green onion, chopped
5 tablespoons soy sauce
5 tablespoons sugar
5 tablespoons water or pear juice
1 clove minced garlic
2 tablespoons sesame seeds
1 tablespoon oil

Method
- Make a sauce by mixing all the ingredients together except for the beef.
- Pour sauce over beef and mix thoroughly.
- Marinate for at least one hour.
- Cook over charcoal fire or frying pan until done.
- Serve immediately.

Kimch'i

Ingredients:
4 or 5 heads of Chinese cabbage
1 cup oysters
1 bundle of watercress
500g shrimp
2 white radishes
4 cups salt
5 green onions
1 ginger root
10 mushrooms
1 cup red pepper
1 pear
1 bulb garlic
6 chestnuts (if available)

Method
- Cut the cabbages in half and soak them in salt water.
- Rinse in cold water and drain.
- Cut watercress and green onions into 4cm strips.
- Cut pear, garlic, ginger and one radish into thin strips.
- Cut remaining radish into large pieces and sprinkle with salt.
- Combine two cups water with salt to make brine.
- Mix vegetable strips, oysters, shrimp and red pepper.
- Pack seasoned stuffing between each leaf of cabbage and wrap cabbage with the outer leaves.
- Layer cabbage bundles and radish pieces in a large dish and pour the salt brine over them.
- Seal and allow to stand in a cool place for a few days before refrigerating.

Old Korea comes to life

Recent developments in the Republic of Korea have been so fast that many Koreans started to feel that their ancient culture was soon to disappear completely. As a result, Folk Village, or *Minsokch'on,* was built just a few kilometres south of Seoul.

The village is an open-air museum which includes examples of all styles of village life on the Korean peninsula. The foreign tourist and Korean who has a nostalgia for the vanishing past can see farmhouses, the home of an aristocrat, a gaol, a potter's and a blacksmith's shop, a charcoal maker, paper maker and all the rest that made the old Korea such a finely developed culture.

Featured at the village are celebrations of old Korea. Every day represents some festival. It might be a wedding, a kite flying contest or a group of 'farmers' driving out evil spirits with gongs and drums.

Whether or not the events are totally authentic doesn't seem to matter all that much as citizens from busy Seoul crowd onto the subway to make the trip into last century and beyond.

A weaver in the Korean Folk Village near Seoul (Korean Overseas Information Service)

Getting an education

(G.Fish)

The education systems in the North and South are quite different. The North has a technical emphasis and manual labour is a compulsory part of their school system. Education is free and compulsory. Children begin school at age seven and continue for 10 years. University courses then follow and last from four to six years.

The system in the South is broken into a six year primary school followed by a three year middle school education and three years of high school which prepare students for higher education. Only the first six years are free. However, despite the fee-paying nature of education in the South, about 90 percent of all students complete the three years of high school, which may be vocational or general.

The general high school course includes compulsory subjects, electives and extracurricular activities. A normal school week will see students having classes in Korean, social sciences, ethics and morality, Korean history, world history, geography, maths, biology, physical education, music and art and English as well as the elective areas which make for a busy day for Korean students.

A nation once again?

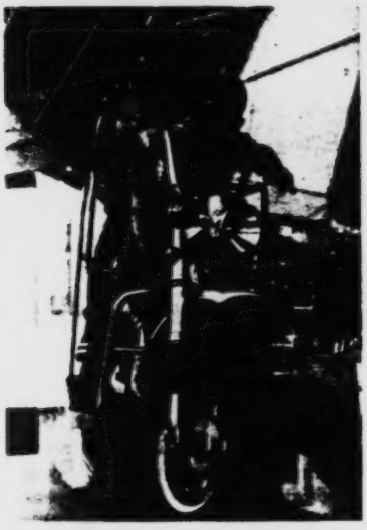
Both North and South have made calls for reunification of Korea, but with little success. For most Koreans this dream of one Korea remains simply a dream and a dream which fades as the years go by. However, the proposals put forward by both sides in the dispute are worth looking at.

The main thrust of the North's proposal for one Korea is that a Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo be established. They urge that this be set up through a unified national government which recognises the two social systems operating at present and recognises regional autonomy with equal rights for both sides.

The South proposes a three point plan for unification which says that peace should be established on the peninsula, the two sides should begin exchanges, talks and cooperation. Unification should be achieved through free general elections.

While both proposals have appeal there has been little real progress made. One area of concern to the North is that there are some 40 000 US troops are permanently stationed in the south. They want them removed. And so, endless debate continues and the country remains, sadly, divided.

A different sort of place



Mangyondae fun fair in Pyongyang

Two major features which the tourist is encouraged to see while visiting Pyongyang, the capital of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, are the birthplace of the 'Great Leader' and a huge amusement park. No one can really avoid visiting the North without coming across some memorial to Kim Il Sung — a statue or sports stadium bearing his name. What seems a little strange, however, is that the fun fair and the memorial to his birth place are at the same place in town and share the same name — Mangyondae.

Now it might seem odd that the President of the DPRK who is seen as almost god-like should share a spot with an amusement park, but things in the North are often just that little bit different.

The fun fair is quite spectacular. It stretches out for 600 000 square metres and 100 000 people go through its gates each day. The designers of the park left nothing to chance when they built Mangyongdae. There are dozens of bone shaking, nerve shattering rides, all set in a garden atmosphere. The sight of flowers and trees is, no doubt, to soothe the jangled nerve ends after being flung around in some demonic 'amusement'.

Just where hand grenade throwing or machine gun galleries fit into the idea of amusements may be unsure, but where the birthplace of the 'Great Leader' and a fun fair fit together is still a puzzle as well.

Trivial pursuits?

The official judge from the *Guinness Book of Records* certainly had her work cut out for her when a most unusual event recently took place in Pusan in the Republic of Korea. Potential record makers assembled in order to win a place in history by going through all manner of torment.

The star of the day was Kim Yang-Gi who broke two world records. First he performed 31 pull-ups using only the thumb and middle finger of one hand and went on to record 16 one finger pull-ups.

In another corner of the hall Pak Pong-Tae was busy with a skipping rope. In one hour he jumped 14 628 times, while U Hui-Ryong bounced a soccer ball on his head for five hours, six minutes and 30 seconds.

Ms Nichols from the Guinness Book was certainly impressed by the stamina and willingness of these would-be champions. She didn't ask one question, however, and that is . . . why?

The *Ramyon* revolution

Eating habits are changing rapidly in The Republic of Korea. As a society which is rapidly becoming more Westernised, there is obviously a growing Western influence in food, but Asian food is also adapting to meet the new faster pace of the new Korea.

Ramyon, the curly instant noodle, which was considered a bit suspect when it first came onto the market in the early 1960s, is now second only to rice as a staple food in Korea. Last year nearly four billion bags of the noodles, which are simply added to boiling water, were sold in Korean supermarkets. This works out to about 90 bags per person.

The secret of its success lies in the fact that people have less time today than ever before to prepare meals and the speed and ease of preparation means that the Ramyon revolution is here to stay.

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Korea — one people in a divided land

When the name Korea is mentioned the response is generally the same. Knowledge of Korea has basically been confined to a sketchy view of the Republic of Korea (ROK) or the more commonly used name of South Korea. This is the Korea with which we trade. This is the Korea of the Olympics. This is the Korea that is politically closer to Australia. It must be remembered, however, that Korea is much more than this.

Sadly there are two states occupying the Korean peninsula and these two states are at loggerheads as to whose is the legitimate government. This other Korea is more shrouded in mystery — a mystery mostly of its own making admittedly, but which serves to create in people's thinking the notion that Korea extends only to the 38th parallel and the Demilitarised Zone.

For more than 40 years now the peninsula has been split between the ROK in the south and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in the north. The saddest aspect of this division and the creation of 'two Koreas' is that the people share a culture which dates back for many hundreds of years.

Indeed the unity of culture, language and artistic development in the region was quite marked. It has been proven that Korea played a major part in the artistic and even racial development of the Japanese. The arts reached such a stage of development that Korean porcelain work became adopted by the Japanese. While linguistically Manchuria and China influenced the Korean national language to a certain extent, the Korean language managed to maintain a uniquely Korean style and flavour.

However, modern history in Korea has made its title of the 'land of the morning calm' something of a misnomer. Occupation and annexation by Japan in 1910 began a traumatic dislocation of traditional life and the development of the country as a whole. The Second World War saw Korea being 'liberated' by both US and Soviet forces and a divided Korea has been the result ever since.

Following the enormous destruction and wastage of human lives and natural resources which was the Korean War of the early 1950s, the division of Korea assumed a more permanent status. Recent years have seen both the ROK and the DPRK put forward proposals to overcome the difficulties but the differences remain as great as they did 40 years ago.

Since the end of the Korean War there has been, in the South, a constant presence of some 40 000 US military personnel and currently there are an estimated 1 000 nuclear weapons stationed in the ROK. Very recently the US government announced a reduction of troop numbers in Korea but the fact remains that there is a high preparedness for war on both sides of the Demilitarised Zone as mutual distrust continues.

Asia Wise has not engaged in any apportioning of blame or the taking of sides. The rights and wrongs of this prolonged dispute and the ideologies espoused by North and South are for others to argue out. Regardless of the fact that relations between the ROK and the DPRK are, at best, in a state of muted hostility, the Korean people, despite all divisions, remain one people. The things which unite them go back for hundreds of years.

This issue of *Asia Wise* gives an overview of the two states which have emerged since the end of the war and focuses on the culture that binds Koreans.

The Korean peninsula

Aims

- To investigate the history, traditions and culture of the Korean people.
- To examine the outcomes of 20th century Korean history.
- To investigate economic, political, social and cultural ties between Australia and the countries of the Korean peninsula.
- To apply a range of data-gathering and analysis techniques and to provide opportunities for development of presentation skills.

Concepts

lifestyle, society, environment, war, government, work, leisure, education, industry, social organisation, trade, international relations

Focus questions — Possible activities

Where is the Korean peninsula and what factors influence its climate and vegetation?

Use atlases, maps, globes and other reference materials to familiarise students with the location of the Korean peninsula.

Prepare a large classroom map to show major physical features, political divisions and major population centres.

Complete the map exercise on page 3.

Collect and graph information about the climate and vegetation.

What major events this century have had major influences in this area?

Using library resources investigate the impact of the occupation by the Japanese, the liberation and partition of the country after World War 2, and the Korean War.

Depict the information gathered in a frieze and/or a time line.

What are some of the customs and traditions of the people of the Korean peninsula?

Find out about the major religious influences in the area?

Gather information on aspects of culture such as language, food, clothing, art and crafts, festivals, sports and leisure activities.

Find out if the separation of the country into North and South has had any influence on culture and traditions.

What are the chief similarities and differences between the countries of ROK and the DPRK?

Compare the Republic of Korea and the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea by constructing a chart with sub-headings such as style of government, population statistics, capitals, major industries, agriculture and resources, currency, imports and exports, economic statistics and major trading partners.

Discuss the likelihood of the countries being reunited and what factors may work for or against such a reunification. Keep a file of current event clippings on Korea and closely monitor any moves to reunite the countries of Korea.

What contacts does Australia have with ROK and DPRK?

Make a list of all the goods that originated in Korea which are imported into Australia.

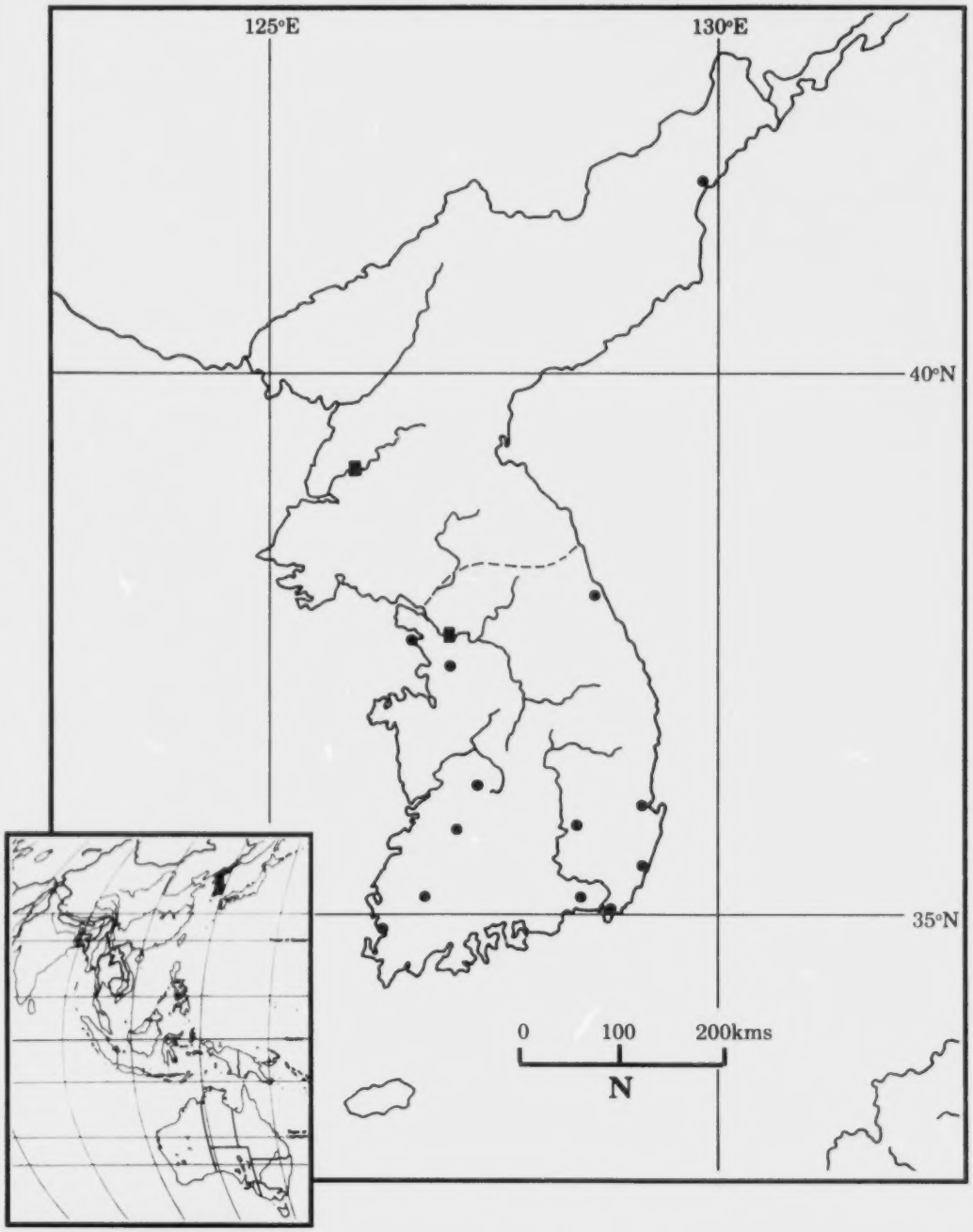
Find out what goods Australia exports to Korea. Using this information make predictions about future trading relations.

Make a case study of particular imports or exports.

What cultural and social links does Australia have with the people of the Korean peninsula? Include such aspects as migration to Australia, Korean adoptions and tourism.

Korea — Land of the Morning Calm, a special issue of the Asia Teachers' Bulletin Volume 16, number 1, is an excellent resource on the Republic of Korea and the history and culture of the region.
A limited number of this volume are available from the Asia Teachers' Association. The address and further details about the Association are to be found on page 7.

The Korean peninsula



Mark on map

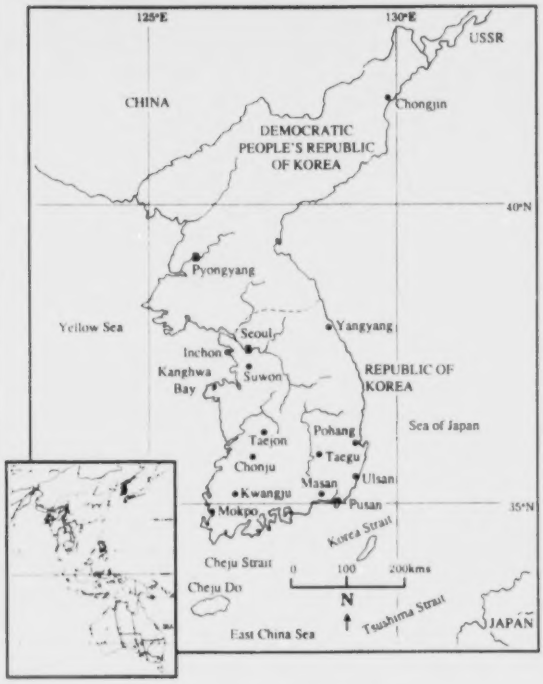
REPUBLIC OF KOREA
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

USSR
CHINA
JAPAN

SEOUL	CHONJU	ULSAN		
PYONGYANG	TAEGU	MASAN	CHEJU DO	KOREA STRAIT
PUSAN	TAEJON	CHONGJIN	YELLOW SEA	CHEJU STRAIT
MOKPO	INCHON	SUWON	EAST CHINA SEA	TSUSHIMA STRAIT
KWANGJU	POHANG	YANGYANG	SEA OF JAPAN	KANGHWA BAY

Korean datafile

The Korean peninsula



PHYSICAL FEATURES

The principle geographic feature of the Korean peninsula is its mountainous backbone. The eastern coast is steep and rugged. The western slopes, however are gentle, and end in a network of estuaries and tidal flats. Most of the 22 percent of arable land is in the south. In area it is slightly smaller than Victoria.

CLIMATE

The climate has distinct seasonal changes. The temperature varies in the hot, humid summer months, June, July and August, from 25°C to 37°C. In the cold, dry months of winter the minimum temperatures vary between -28°C in the north to -5°C in the south.

LANGUAGE

The Korean language is based on a phonetic alphabet called *Hangul*, formulated in the 15th century AD. It consists of 19 consonants, ten simple vowels and 11 compound vowels. Unlike our alphabet, Hangul is used to form syllables, not words. Due to the strong Chinese influence on Korea, roughly half of the Korean vocabulary consists of words of Chinese origin.

Sources: *Outline series*, Department of Foreign Affairs, *Asia 1990 Yearbook*, Far Eastern Economic Review.

Republic of Korea		*Democratic People's Republic of Korea*
CAPITAL		
Seoul		Pyongyang
HEAD OF STATE		
President Roh Tae Woo		President Kim Il Sung
PRIME MINISTER		
Kang Young Hoon		Yong Hyong Muk
CURRENCY		
won (528 won = $A1)		won (0.72 won = $A1)
AREA		
99 200sqkm		122 300sqkm
POPULATION STRUCTURE		
43.1 million	TOTAL	22.5 million
68%	UNDER 15	38%
19	BIRTH RATE /1000	29
30	INFANT MORTALITY /1000	33
65 years	LIFE EXPECTANCY	70 years
6	DEATH RATE /1000	5
1.3%	ANNUAL GROWTH RATE	2.4%
WORKFORCE		
16.9 million	TOTAL	7 million
27.7%	IN MANUFACTURING	39%
20.7%	IN AGRICULTURE, FISHING	43%
$A6 273	GNP PER CAPITA	$A1 447
MAJOR INDUSTRIES		
textiles, iron and steel petroleum products ships, passenger cars		steel, cement, textiles chemicals
MAJOR AGRICULTURE		
grain, vegetables, fruits, livestock, timber, fish		rice, maize, potatoes other grains
MINING		
coal, tungsten ore, limestone		coal, iron ore, non-ferrous metals
MAJOR IMPORTS		
raw materials, crude oil, capital goods, consumer goods		petroleum, chemicals, machinery, grains, cereals, coking coal, equipment capital
MAJOR EXPORTS		
heavy, chemical & light industry products, electronic & electrical products, motor vehicles, textiles, footwear, primary products		non-ferrous metals coal, rice, silk marine products, cement

Yut: an ancient game

Yoboseyo (hello)

Traditional games in Korea are making a comeback. Why not try some traditional pastimes like the ancient game of *yut*?

The Korean game of yut originated in the Shilla Dynasty and has been played by children and adults for some 1 500 years.

At first, the game of yut was part of the religious observances of the Korean people and its purpose was to pray for a rich and bountiful harvest, or to seek out information about the future (fortune telling).

Yut is a very simple game to play. It requires only the four yut sticks, some coloured buttons (for *mal* or horses) and a sheet of paper or cardboard for the game design.

The yut sticks are usually about 5cm long and 1cm in diameter. The sticks act like dice in the game. They are flat on one side and curved on the other. Four yut sticks are used in the game (said to represent four important animals: the pig, dog, ox and horse). The yut sticks' shapes and scoring patterns are shown opposite.

The yut board or game design looks like a large cross inside a circle. At each end of the cross and in the centre are smaller circles, five in all. On each arc of the large circle are four resting points (20 in all), and on each arm of the cross are two resting points (8 in all). All games start and finish at the same point, that is whichever large arc circle is so designated.

The object of the game is for players to get their four mals (horses) around the board and back to the finish. Movement and scoring (rules of the game) are determined by the way in which the yut sticks land when they have been tossed into the air.

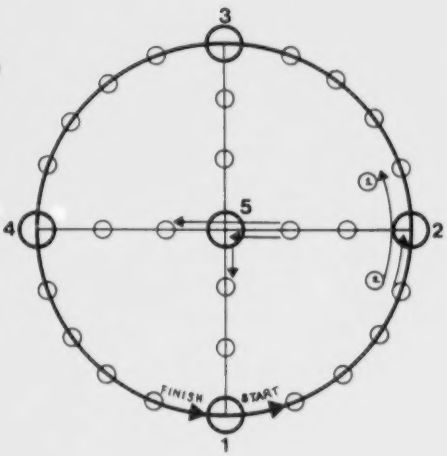
Do
(1 point)

Gae
(2 points)

Gul
(3 points)

Yut
(4 points)

Mo
(5 points)



Rules of the game

- Yut can be played by two to four players or by two teams of players. It is played on the floor. To begin, players take turns tossing the four yut sticks into the air. The player with the highest score begins the game. Each player has four mals.
- To begin players place their mals at 'home'. The four yut sticks are thrown about a metre into the air. As the sticks go into the air, Koreans are known to yell '*hurrah*' or call out the name of what the player wants to get; for example '*Yut-i-ya*' or '*Mo-y*'!
- When the sticks fall to the floor the player moves according to the scoring system above.
- Players advance their mals around the circle in a race to reach home first.
- If a player lands on a large corner circle (points 2, 3, 4), then a short cut can be taken via point 5. So the following are possible detours: 1, 2, 3, 5, 1 or 1, 2, 5, 4, 1, or if you are in luck, 1, 2, 5, 1.
- Two mals belonging to different players cannot be on the same spot at the same time. When a new mal arrives on an occupied space, the mal originally on the spot must return to the start. But, two or more mals belonging to one player can be on the same spot together and, in that case, all the mals of that one player can move together as one from then on. (This is sometimes called 'piggy-backing' or in Korean, *opgi).*
- When you send an opposing player's mal back to the start, you get another throw of the yut sticks.
- A player also gets an extra turn if the yut sticks throw is a '*yut*' (4 points) or '*mo*' (5 points).
- New mals can be brought into play at any time (and each player has four). But only one mal can be moved for each throw of the yut sticks (except when piggy-backing).

Asia Wise would like to thank the Asia Teachers' Association for permission to reproduce the rule of yut as outlined in their publication *Korea — Land of Morning Calm.*

Korean National Curriculum Project

The project

The Korean National Curriculum Project is located within the Australian Capital Territory Schools Authority and is funded by the Asian Studies Council as part of the Commonwealth Government's initiatives to promote improved knowledge of Asian languages in this country. The project aims:

- to develop a national curriculum framework, based on the Australian Language Levels (ALL) Project Guidelines, for a two-year communicative, activities based course in Korean language for senior secondary students beginning a second language; and
- to produce appropriate teaching materials in support of the above curriculum framework.

A National Reference Group has been set up comprising representatives from State and Territory Departments of Education to co-ordinate National Curriculum Project work with the requirements of State and Territory school systems.

Personnel

There has been a change in the project. Mr Adrian Buzo, Lecturer in Korean at Swinburne Institute of Technolgy, Victoria, worked part-time (two days a week) on the project during 1989.

Mr Shin Gi-hyun was appointed as a part-time consultant (three days a week) to the project in June 1989. In November, Mr Shin was appointed as lecturer in Korean at Swinburne and returned to Korea to complete immigration formalities.

The position of project officer was readvertised in late January.

Activities to December '89

Mr Shin incorporated units of work prepared by Mr Buzo into Stage 1 modules, and prepared a draft of Stage 1 for discussion and trialling. Mr Shin has also begun work on Stages 2 and 3.

The curriculum modules for Stage 1 have been set as follows.

1) Basic language awareness
2) Meeting the people
3) School life
4) Life at home
5) Shopping
6) The world, the environment
7) Free time
8) Happy birthday
9) Planning a trip

Each module contains approximately five week's class work. **A copy of the Stage 1 curriculum document is available on request.**

Resources

Units of work have also been framed for each of the above modules, and substantial work involving slide sets, cassettes, activity sheets and other relevant teaching materials have been done on all units.

Future plans

The project expects to complete the drafting of Stages 1 and 2 by early May 1990. The main task of the project will then remain resource development. Currently, these are almost entirely lacking in Australia or indeed, elsewhere in the world. It is inevitable that much of February and March will be given over to personnel matters, but the principle task of the incoming consultants will be the collation of what is now a considerable body of material.

By June 1990, the project expects to have prepared a detailed plan for developing:

- a student text,
- a teacher's manual, and
- supporting cassette, video and slide material.

The video project

In 1990 the ACT Department of Education in co-operation with Film Australia plans to produce a set of two or more language teaching videos based on footage shot in Korea. The Korean videos will be similar in type to those made for the Thai curriculum, which have met with enthusiastic response from students during trialling in the Thai summer school at ANU, January 1990.

Some minor variations are planned for the Korean videos, for example a strong element of 'interlanguage' showing an Australian communicating in a variety of situations.

This type of material is highly motivating for students, in showing them the possibilities of real language use. The videos will provide authentic verbal and non-verbal language and socio-cultural detail. The teacher would be expected to use only a few minutes of video in a lesson, to introduce a situation and later to replay the scene a few times to develop fluency. The videos will be a valuable asset in competing with other languages which have a variety of audiovisual resources.

Introducing Korean to secondary schools

Negotiations are under way to introduce Korean into schools in the eastern states and possibly the Northern Territory. Korean has been designated a priority language in New South Wales, where several schools are interested in beginning a program. There is also an active campaign to introduce Korean in Victorian schools, although a two year senior secondary accelerated course is not acceptable in that state. It is currently taught in the ACT and other states as part of a church initiative, but there are few or no programs in schools in the English speaking world. Americans have expressed interest in the curriculum materials and resources, and we expect them to be marketed worldwide.

For further information contact:
The Korean Language Project
PO Box 44
The Barker Centre ACT 2001

For your information

Teaching Korean in Australia

Currently, Korean is taught at Swinburne Institute of Technology, Monash University, the Australian National University and the Griffith/Queensland Key Centre for Asian Languages and Studies. Korean is not taught at the secondary level yet, but the Asian Studies Council has begun a National Korean Curriculum Development Project. In 1989 the Association for the Promotion of the Teaching of Korean in Australia (APTKA) was formed to support the teaching of Korean in Australia.

Most institutions concentrate solely on language studies, but Swinburne also offers courses in Korean Civilization and also offers a double degree Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Arts (Korean). Swinburne is also publishing a series of Korean language textbooks.

For more information on APTKA, and on the textbooks available contact

Adrian Buzo
Lecturer in Korean
Swinburne Institute of Technology
PO Box 218
Hawthorn VIC 3122

Teaching Korean in Australia

Australia has a population of about 20 000 Koreans. They are mainly concentrated in Sydney, but small communities exist in all major cities.

Korean people are generally very friendly and receptive to people who want to find out more about Korea. Republic of Korea government offices in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne are always willing to supply materials suitable for projects. Also in your telephone book under 'Korea' you can find the names and telephone numbers of organisations such as friendship groups.

Melbourne has an active Australian-Korean Association (AKA), which runs picnics, outings and film nights. Their address is

Australian-Korean Association
PO Box 153
Fairfield **VIC** 3078

The Asia Teachers' Association

The **Asia Teachers' Association** has developed high quality teaching resources for primary and secondary teachers throughout Australia for over 15 years. The ATA publishes members contributions and feature articles in the *Asia Teachers' Bulletin* — a quarterly journal containing student activities and worksheets, information about Asia, teaching ideas and book reviews. Members can also purchase a range of materials like *Land of Morning Calm* and *Focus on Asia* and secondary students can enter the **Korean National Day student essay competition**. This competition is conducted with the generous assistance of the Korean Consul-General (Sydney) and this year it is possible that the first prize will be a trip to Korea.

New members are most welcome. Membership for the 1989-90 financial year is $25 for individuals and $30 for institutions/schools. For more details about ATA and the student essay competition send your membership details with payment to

Asia Teachers' Association
PO Box 2393
Sydney **NSW** 2001
(02) 6839631

Other useful addresses

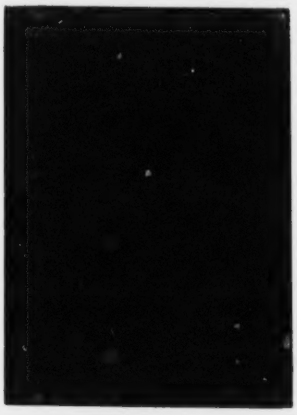
Embassy Republic of Korea
113 Empire Circuit
Yarralumla ACT 2600

Korean National Tourism Corporation
GPO Box 3737
Sydney NSW 2001

Australian Embassy Seoul
GPO Box 562
Seoul
Republic of Korea

Korea Royal Asiatic Society
GPO Box 255
Seoul
Republic of Korea

Korean Newspaper (Taehan Shinbo)
115 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000



Asia Wise TV 1990

ASIA WISE

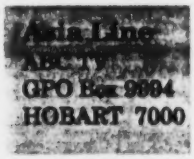
ABC TV

During 1990 Asia Wise will be broadcast on **alternate Thursdays at 12.00 noon.** There will be no repeat screenings as happened in 1989.

In order to correlate the content of the programs and topic of each issue of the Asia Wise magazine the following schedule will be followed, as far as possible. This should assist in maximising the classroom potential of both the print and television material.

General programs are scheduled to allow current issues to be covered. During these programs Asia Wise also screens a segment where students' questions are answered. Called **Asia Line,** it provides a unique opportunity for your class to have input into a television program.

Send your questions together with a class or group photograph if possible to



GOOD VIEWING,

Eoin Breen
Co-ordinator
Asia Wise TV

PROGRAM	TO AIR DATE	PROGRAM CONTENT	MAGAZINE ISSUE
4	29 March	**Korea,** overview of country, people, Australia's relations	**Issue 2 – The Korean peninsula**
5	12 April	**Cambodia**, background to Evans 'peace plan'	
6	3 May	**Women in Asia, Buddhism**	**Issue 3 – Women in Asia**
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Women in Asia — a confusing picture

Much of what happens in the countries of Asia is often confusing. There are extremes of wealth and poverty, extremes of highly educated people and huge numbers of people unable to read or write. But the question of the role of women in society is possibly one of the most confusing areas in Asian affairs.

Women in Asia have traditionally been an oppressed group, with few rights of any description. Advances have been made but they are painfully slow. At the same time women have played prominent leadership roles in a number of cases.

There have been very few women political leaders in the world and yet, today, Corazon Aquino is the President of the Philippines and Benazhir Bhutto leads the people of Pakistan. Until she was assassinated in 1984, Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister of India. The current leader of the main opposition party in Japan, the Japanese Socialist Party, is Ms Takako Doi, and the most prominent opposition leader in Myanmar is Aung San Su Kyi. She has spent much time under house arrest in the capital for fear that she may well topple the government.

However, while some Asian countries have produced strong women political leaders, economic and social conditions for millions of women remain poor. Despite many projects which have been put into place by governments and individuals, there is a long way to go before women in Asia achieve full and real equality.

The right to an education is essential if women in Asia are to free themselves and society of centuries of oppression. In Nepal, for example, girls make up only 29 percent of the total school enrolment. As the years at school go by the numbers of girls go down. Families do not see education as necessary for girls and so pull them out of school. Great economic pressures are also applied which make it necessary for girls to start work very early. Only 18 percent of Nepalese women are literate compared to 51.5 percent of men.

Women's equality and education are inseparably linked. (Qantas)

Improving the position of women in society is quite difficult. Singapore, for example, introduced progressive legislation as far back as 1961 to help women win their rightful place in society and the economy. In 1961, only 17 percent of women were in paid employment. Today that figure has risen to 37 percent. Women are also winning their place in a wide range of occupations, but the general thinking in the country is still that women's main role is to look after home and family. Despite this women in Singapore are more and more taking leading roles in society.

Traditionally women in Asia were placed extremely low in order of importance. For governments to pass laws declaring equality is all very well. Changing attitudes which have stretched back for centuries is more difficult. In China, where the population pressures are such that the government has outlawed families from having more than one child, there have been cases of female babies being killed. Boys are regarded as being of greater value. In India, female babies are more likely to die in infancy than boys and women have a far greater mortality rate.

Despite these problems women in Asia are slowly improving their position. The fact that a number of very influential women leaders have emerged in some Asian countries proves that women are more than capable. Given the right conditions there will be even greater advances in the years to come.

Taking up the challenge

Sri Lanka, at the tip of the Indian sub-continent has also produced a woman leader and, like India, a woman who twice led her country. Mrs Sirmavo Bandaranaike ruled Sri Lanka from 1960-65 and then came back from defeat to regain power from 1970-77.

Sri Lanka today is a highly troubled land with politically motivated violence a sad feature of life. During the life of the second Bandaranaike government there was a coalition of a number of left leaning groups and parties in her government. She was able for a time to maintain stability in a country which has enjoyed very little stability.

Internationally Mrs Gandhi was a highly regarded stateswoman. (High Commission of India)

On 19 November 1917 a most remarkable woman was born in India. Indira Gandhi, daughter of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was later to become India's first woman Prime Minister and for decades she dominated Indian politics.

Gandhi twice led India and with her assassination in 1984 her family dynasty continued as her son Rajiv took control of the country for the next five years. To her enemies she was a ruthless opponent. During a state of emergency she had many political foes imprisoned. Internationally she was a highly regarded stateswoman.

The period of her rule may be over and her son Rajiv may have lost government but Indian politics will be marked by her imprint for years to come.

The Aquino experience

The assassination of Benigno Aquino catapulted Corizon Aquino into the political arena.

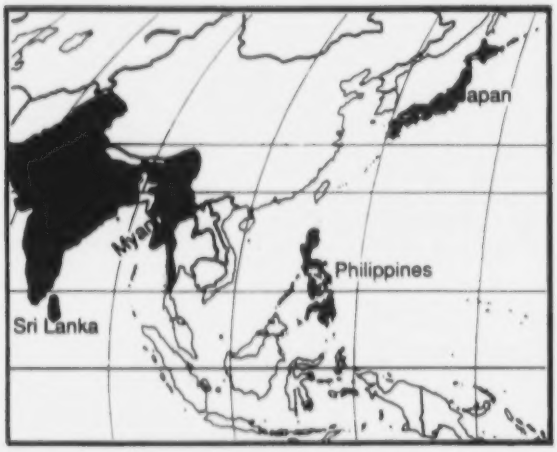
When considering the question of women who have 'made it' to the top in Asia it is difficult to look past Corazon Aquino of the Philippines. The most recent past has certainly provided many influential figures and newsmakers, but none more influential or of greater news value than Mrs Aquino. Her 'people power' revolution which toppled the Marcos regime and the election campaign which brought her to office caught the imagination of the world in a way which has seldom been seen before. Whether she can maintain control is still a matter for debate. The position remains far from secure.

Aquino came from a highly political background. Her husband was a prominent opponent of Marcos and they spent some time in the USA in a state of virtual exile before Benigno Aquino returned to the country and was assassinated. His wife took up the struggle and with an incredible outpouring of emotion and solidarity from the Filipino people forced the end of the Marcos era.

The period since those heady days has been a difficult one for Aquino and the country as a whole. There have been six coup attempts and despite all the efforts of the Aquino government it is quite possible that another attempt to remove her is likely. The threat of a coup is not the only problem Aquino has to live with. There is a continuing struggle against political foes and economic crises of massive proportions.

For Aquino, winning government was perhaps the easiest part. Holding power and achieving any lasting reforms are proving far more difficult.

The 'people power' revolution caught the imagination of the world. (S. Pearce)



Politics in Myanmar (formerly known as Burma) have been chaotic since the Ne Win regime was overthrown by General Saw Maung, but attitudes towards women in politics have not changed.

The media recently commented that 'women who have come of age should stay under the guidance of their husbands.' The article was about an outspoken, highly educated woman, Aung San Su Kyi, who became a symbol of opposition and so faced house arrest.

Returning to Myanmar in 1988, she began a pro-democracy campaign. Even with wide support she soon found politics in Myanmar to be difficult with arrest being the result. Her political style has been likened to the Philippines' Aquino before she swept to power. U'rging her husband to exercise 'control' may be extreme but the military has certainly exercised 'control' over its political enemies.

In December 1988 Benazhir Bhutto made history by becoming the first woman to lead an Islamic country. The new Prime Minister of Pakistan became doubly famous when, at the age of 35 she became the youngest world leader. However, her rise was not easy and her grip on power is far from secure.

Born into a wealthy Pakistani family in 1953, politics were close to her as her father was a key political figure. He was removed as Prime Minister by a military coup in 1977. This action and his execution in 1979 pushed the young Bhutto into politics. She was chosen to lead the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) when she was just 24. The next 11 years were difficult ones as Pakistan, under the rule of General Zia-ul Haq, introduced strict Islamic law for the country.

Bhutto spent much of the next period either in prison or under house arrest and was only able to travel abroad to receive surgery shortly before Zia lifted martial law in 1985. Arriving back to a Pakistan which allowed her more political freedom saw Bhutto begin an 18 month anti-Zia campaign. General Zia died in 1988 as a result of a plane crash and a new caretaker leader called an election. The PPP won and after a lengthy delay, Bhutto was elected Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Since then she has had to move very slowly. There has been concerted opposition from the army and from Islamic religious leaders who refuse to accept that a woman could rule an Islamic nation. While she is determined to raise literacy levels and health standards for the people of Pakistan, she faces huge difficulties. Pakistan has massive foreign debts which take up 40 percent of the country's budget. Another 40 percent goes to the military. She dares not cut military spending for fear of external threats.

Added to these difficulties is the refugee problem. Pakistan has long supported the rebels in the Afghan war and is home to many refugees. The situation with neighbouring India is tense with border disputes common. Problems at home are acute and the future for the Islamic world's first woman leader remains an uncertain one.

Takako Doi's political career began with a remark made in 1969. She was asked to run for the Japanese Socialist Party but said no. A male politician laughed and said she couldn't win anyway. Her mind was changed and she has been an MP ever since.

Today she leads the party which threatened the rule of the long standing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). Women in this traditionally male dominated society do not have a history of political involvement, but today more women are looking at political issues.

Leading her Party which has been in opposition for so long is no easy task. To defeat the LDP was virtually impossible but given conservative Japanese behaviour it would seem unthinkable for a woman to change a government. However, times change and many see the day when Doi may lead the world's strongest economic nation.

Giving women a chance

Cheli Beti or 'young girl'

Female illiteracy is one of the world's biggest problems. In the countries of Asia more than six out of every 10 women can't read or write. A literate mother will never allow her child to be illiterate. Aid programs sometimes neglect this vital fact.

The Seti project in Nepal is a concrete way of putting aid to work. Seti is in a remote region of Nepal — one of the least developed countries in the world. It is not all that surprising that women in Nepal have few rights. Education for girls has never been a feature of life for the Nepalese. A project to encourage girls to attend school has enjoyed some quiet success.

Taking things slowly and carefully has been the way to achieve the best results in this area. Essential to the project was how to get girls to enrol in school. Many schools in the region have no girl students at all. Traditional life for young women in this part of the world is to stay at home to help first her mother and later her mother-in-law.

The women plant and weed, harvest and thresh and in the off-season forage for food for the family and for their animals. Hours each day are spent simply finding fuel which in Nepal means fire-wood. The forests have been depleted by over-use. With such a difficult traditional lifestyle, it is not easy to persuade Nepalese families that it is for the best to send their daughters to school. Most parents feel it worthless to 'waste' education on a girl who will be married soon enough.

Early each morning an out of school project takes place which is seen as a stepping stone to enrolling girls in the normal school program. This program is called *Cheli Beti* or 'young girl'. Practical skills are taught as well as basic reading, writing and counting skills. A major thrust of the program is to help the girls gain confidence in their own abilities.

The whole operation is rather basic and the teachers themselves, who come from the village, are given a most elementary training which takes just 35 days. Some of the skills seem very elementary, like how to wash hair and clothes. Traditional lifestyles in rural Nepal ignored such basics. There were very real reasons why, as water was always a scarce luxury.

The Cheli Beti course has been a great success, but a major problem remains in the fact that many village people still have not made the connection between this course and the need for the wider education which the normal school system would bring. However, this small step is one in the right direction and the project is looking to develop more skilled teachers who will be able to give a better start to Nepalese girls who may go on to a more formal education. It may seem a rather modest program but it has wider implications as Nepalese women begin to discover that there is more to life than being little more than a beast of burden.

Women are often among the most disadvantaged groups in the Third World. Cultural and religious traditions can severely limit their educational and employment chances. Rural women in developing countries as a whole account for over 50 percent of food production — yet their efforts are largely unrecognised and unrecorded.

Australia acknowledges the major role that women play in the economic and social life of developing countries, and seeks to:

- involve women in the design and implementation of development projects;
- encourage governments of developing countries to ensure women participate more fully in all stages of development;
- increase the number of women students from overseas who are sponsored under aid programs; and
- ensure equal benefits for both men and women.

In 1984-85 the Australian Government established a Women in Development Fund to implement projects that benefit women and to help Australia's Women in Development policy in all development projects.

(Reprinted from Australia's Aid Program — courtesy of Australian International Development Assistance Bureau)

The gap between men and women in tertiary education is beginning to close in much of Asia. This is giving cause for some celebration in many countries. In the developed Western countries female enrolment in universities now makes up 48 percent of the total student intake. In 1970, up to 27 percent of university students in Asia were women. This had risen to 32 percent by 1984.

The importance of these rises in women's participation in higher education is made more significant when the level of oppression in many traditional Asian societies is taken into account. Education for women has traditionally been seen as of little importance and an actual waste of time and money.

However, the fact that there are more women in tertiary institutions of learning does not necessarily mean that the old problems are over. In the countries of Asia there is still a big gap in the numbers of males to females at university.

The fact also remains that the overwhelming proportion of graduates in the last decade have been male and these graduates are now beginning to fill senior positions in the economy, fields of science and research and in the education institutions themselves. This is seen as reinforcing the fact that women find themselves in a minority position and are still regarded as inferior by many males in Asia.

It is also worth remembering that the students at higher levels of education represent a minority of people in all Asian countries and age old problems of illiteracy are still the norm for millions of people. The opportunities being offered to women in Asia are advances but there is still a long way to go until women will be regarded as full equals in society.

The gap between men and women in tertiary education is beginning to close in much of Asia.
(India Perspectives)

Getting an even break

One factor which has kept women in Asia and other parts of the world from achieving real equality is that they have never had economic independence. In homes throughout the world women have taken responsibility for managing the family budget but have never been able to move out and into the wider world.

Mohamed Yunos, an economics professor from Bangladesh, began a project which may change all that. He has established the Grameen Bank which lends money to groups, including women's groups. The group guarantees that the loan is secure and acts to ensure that their members repay the loan. Until now it was almost impossible for a woman to set up a business.

He uses as an example a woman who made rattan stools and sold them for about two cents each. She had to borrow money for her materials at a very high rate of interest. The more she worked the further she slid into debt. There was no other way for her to get money. The banks would not give her a loan as she had no security. He started his bank with this woman. Today he has 500 000 customers and his ideas are being put into practice in other countries including the USA. Interest rates are low and generally the loans are small.

As a result of this simple idea thousands of poor women in Bangladesh are now earning a living income which raises their living conditions and helps with the development of the economy of the country as a whole.

(India Perspectives)

Women's equality in Asia?

While many women in this country are still less than convinced that the struggle for equality with men has been won, the situation for women in Asia remains a major problem and one which is being largely ignored by the societies in which they live.

While some countries of Asia like the Philippines or Japan are liberal democracies, nations such as Malaysia and Singapore remain quite authoritarian in a great many respects. However, even in the more liberal Asian countries, the position of women is far from satisfactory. Religion, culture, politics customs and traditions all play their part in maintaining a situation which does not allow women full economic and social freedoms.

Poor employment prospects, low pay, sexual harassment, inadequate educational opportunities and physical abuse at the hands of husbands are all too common.

In Japan, which is the most economically developed country in Asia, the situation for many women remains poor. Husbands, who must work long and stressful hours often simply do not come home at night, preferring to remain in the city. Many Japanese women have little economic independence and so, to avoid financial ruin are virtually forced to remain in marriages which are not at all satisfactory.

M. Lahl

Economic hardships force large numbers of Filipino women to leave the country altogether to look for any form of employment. Many opt for marriage to foreigners as a chance to escape poverty.

The position for many women in India is even worse. Traditional practices often include the setting of high 'bride prices' which mean, in effect, that women are sold into marriage. Reports still come in telling of women who, through tradition and the prospect of terrible poverty, are actually burned alive with the remains of their husbands who have died and are cremated.

Despite all this women are beginning to fight back against the terrible oppression that they have traditionally faced. Women in India, for instance have been waging campaigns against sexist advertising. They paint over advertising billboards. In the Philippines campaigns are underway to oppose the sexual exploitation of women. Malaysian women have set up a women's shelter for battered women and children.

All of these cases are occasional and the surface is only being scratched. Much needs to be done but women in Asia are starting to assert themselves and to try to win some of the rights which women in the West have won already.

M. Lahl

As the South Korean economy continues to grow, more men are leaving traditional farming jobs for the new occupations the economy demands. This has led to a shortage of farm labour and the vacancies are being filled by women.

In traditional Korean society, women assisted the men in this farm work. Twenty years ago women accounted for 27.5 percent of all farm labour. Today this figure is almost 50 percent. While at first this may sound as if Korean women are finding their place in society and winning economic independence, it is not quite as simple as that.

Women are finding themselves with extra burdens to carry. There are few, if any, support systems for women beyond the volunteer operations put in place. This means two full time jobs. They must put in a full and hard day working on farms and then complete the traditional tasks of being wife, mother and housewife. All in all it is a load which may prove too burdensome for many in the future.

For many in Asia, traditional religious practices and a swing toward more rigid beliefs are playing a negative role in the advancement of women in society. This growth in rigid beliefs, or religious fundamentalism, is at present most apparent in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

In India, for example, the ancient ritual of sati has begun to resurface. This involves the death by burning of a wife of a man who has died and is being cremated. Officially this practice has been against the law in India since 1929, and yet cases are being reported in increasing numbers.

A woman who dies in this way is considered to be holy indeed and thousands flock to their shrines. There is evidence, however, to suggest that not all such cases are entirely voluntary.

Whether or not this is the case, the point remains that some women undergo this painful death from either religious reasons or, as some would have it, because life for a widow in rural India is very much a living death. Society often treats widows as an economic liability. She cannot remarry, must remain barefoot, sleep on the floor and never be seen talking to any male. Death can be regarded as a better option.

(M. Lahl)

Women's organisations in India have been active in the movement to stop sati rituals. They have petitioned the government and have laid charges against police for not having acted to stop such rituals and the celebrations which occur after the death of women in this way. Cases are also reported of the killing of young brides whose dowries, provided by the woman's family, run out.

While the government has passed legislation which states that sati glorification is punishable, religious groups have argued that this interferes with religious freedoms. Such a situation poses quite a problem in a country with such deeply felt religious convictions. How best to combine religious freedoms and the rights of women remain unanswered.

(Qantas)

The Philippines has a deep and rich literary tradition and this has resurfaced after the days of martial law of the late Marcos period when literature took a back seat. Naturally enough as more people take up their pens once more, there are more women writers emerging. The sad truth, however, is that few are being published and fewer still are taking their place as prestigious Filipino writers.

The most important literary awards in the Philippines are the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial. In its 37 year history, only 22 percent of award winners have been women. It is perhaps not very surprising to learn that 86 percent of the judges are men and many categories are judged solely by men.

The difficulties faced by women writers in the Philippines are not some peculiar Filipino problem. It is a problem which is similar in many countries. Many successful women writers' works are often trivialised as being not 'serious', or that they have less knowledge and understanding of the 'bigger issues' which male writers address in their work.

A great many women are writing today and many would say that they write because they feel they must and have something important to say to readers. But, as is the case in the Philippines, many may be called but few are chosen.

Chinese woman reaches for the sky

Women have always had considerable difficulties breaking into areas which have been regarded as being for 'men only'. Flying has traditionally been seen as one of these male domains. Women who want to be pilots have always had to be twice as competent as their male colleagues. China has proven to be no exception in this regard.

Xue Wenshu tends to prove the point that anything men can do women can do just as well. She is a pilot in the Chinese airforce. She has chalked up more than 3 000 flying hours since graduating from the Beijing Aeronautics Institute.This works out to be about 20 trips around the world.

The Chinese authorities certainly did not make things easy for their potential pilot but were forced to admit that she is an exceptional flyer. Xue Wenshu says that the resentment that many men felt toward her disappeared after she proved her professional capabilities.

One of her big regrets is that neither of her children want to take to the air. Her daughter is studying agriculture and intends to keep her feet firmly on the ground. She began to dislike flying as a young girl. When she would ask her grandmother, who baby-sat for Xue Wenshu when she was at work, where her mother was she would simply point to the sky and say that your mother is busy up there.

Indian women come out fighting

Women in India have traditionally been forced to put up with harsh inequalities. Life is often miserable for millions of Indian women. This oppression has not only taken place in the home. They have been given the worst possible jobs with terribly poor wages, and are often subjected to harassment both in the workplace and on the street.

This sometimes takes the form of sexual harassment or quite frequently robbery and beatings by passers-by. One positive sign coming from India is that women are becoming well and truly fed up with being treated in this manner and are starting to fight back. Martial arts and self defence courses are now being held for women in New Delhi. These have been organised by Indian police officials. The courses have gained wide support from large numbers of Indian women.

The rush to enrol in these courses was so great that they have had to be extended. In the first few weeks 1 800 women in one part of New Delhi were trained in ways of successfully defending themselves.

With more and more women able to fend off attackers with a well placed taekwondo kick or a karate chop Indian men should start to think again before trying to prove their 'superiority' over passing women.

But can we really call this progress?

(Thailand Mirror, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

As we rush headlong toward the end of this century, many people have begun to look back at the speed with which our world has changed in the past 80 years or so. Incredible developments have taken place. Transport has changed so much that people are talking of travel to Mars. Humanity has survived two World Wars. All manner of diseases have been eliminated and, at the same time, beauty contests have grown in numbers which make your head spin.

There are national, regional and international quests in order to locate the person experts decide is the most beautiful woman. Today we have Miss Worlds, Miss Universes and quite possibly we may live to see Miss Galactic beauty competitions. However, it all seems just a little strange. The concept of beauty really comes down to a personal choice but this does not stop contest organisers churning out 'made to measure' beauty requirements as if from some factory. The latest Asian countries to join the rush for beauty pageants are Vietnam and China. The USSR has also joined the fray. But can we really call this progress?

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Women in Asia – a maze of contradictions

It is 14 years since the deciaration of International Women's Year and the beginning of the Decade of Women. Those years have seen advances made as women in many countries have won legislative equality and some progress has been made in social and economic fields. However, the fact remains that for many women in the world and for millions of Asian women, little progress has been seen.

The countries of Asia are a mix of contradictions. Wide gulfs of poverty and wealth exist. Highly educated people are counterbalanced with vast numbers of illiterates. Well developed economies and under developed states exist within the region. The question of the role of women in society is just as confused.

The contradictory nature of the role of women in Asian society is perhaps best shown in the fact that numbers of influential women leaders have emerged. Throughout the 1970s and early 1980s, for instance, Indian politics were dominated by Indira Gandhi. In Sri Lanka the most prominent figure for years was Mrs Bandaranaike. The power of Corazon Aquino in the Philippines is obvious to all. Japanese politics took on a new dynamism with Takako Doi leading the Socialist Party. Benazhir Bhutto became the first woman to lead an Islamic nation. Added to this impressive list is Aung San Su Kyi — Myanmar's principal opposition leader.

All of this has happened against a backdrop of oppression which goes back for centuries. Women have traditionally been a most oppressed and repressed section of society in most Asian countries and have enjoyed few real freedoms. What makes these women leaders even more remarkable is the added fact that women's oppression has not, in any real sense, lessened in the past decade. Legislation to improve the position of women in society sounds good but changing attitudes is a very different thing. The question of education is one area which needs particular care.

Illiteracy is actually rising in the developing world with little money being invested in women's education. However, it is clear that a literate mother will never allow her children to be illiterate. Nearly two thirds of all illiterates are women which is largely a result of traditional beliefs that the role of women is limited to home and in agriculture. Margaret Snyder, of the UN Voluntary Fund for Women has pointed out that women 'are the providers of food, fuel, water and often the whole family income. They sustain and develop their families, communities and countries. The fate of women is a critical determinant of the fate of whole societies.'

Progress has been made and things are improving, but at an extremely slow rate. In Singapore, for example, following from legislation in 1961, the position of women in the economy has risen steadily. Only 17 percent of women were in paid employment in 1961. That figure has now risen to 37 percent. Much still needs to be done in changing people's attitudes in Asia. For there to be anything like real equality for women in Asia it is necessary to first give women the right to equal educational opportunities. Economic and social rights are still out of reach for millions of Asian women.

Despite this rather black picture, it must be remembered that much has been achieved. Provided that there is a will, on the part of governments and aid programs, to promote women's equality, then greater advances will be seen. The success stories of Gandhi, Aquino, Bhutto and others point to the fact that women are waiting to take a leading role in society.

Scientists from the International Rice Research Institute gathering wild rice.

In this issue

This issue of *Asia Wise* has adopted a different format in order to feature a series of short articles under the heading ***Focus on Asian women***. Apart from two articles, one from the *Far Eastern Economic Review* and the other from AIDAB, the materials have been accumulated from the news feature service of the Press Foundation of Asia based in Manila. Known as *DEPTHnews*, the commentaries and column items range over a number of issues pertinent to a study of women in Asia.

The articles have been grouped into five themes — legal rights, education, work, the media and health. Written by journalists working in and familiar with issues facing women in Asia, they give a perspective that provides substance for discussion and further research.

To support teachers and students in their study of women in Asia, *Asia Wise* has reproduced data from the UNICEF publication, *The State of the World's Children 1990*, and the *Asia Yearbook 1989* produced by the *Far Eastern Economic Review*. The Women in Asia datafile provides statistics that provide a base for comparison between the nations of Asia and for a variety of data presentation exercises.

Produced in a photocopiable format, teachers may wish to share all or some of the focusing materials with their classes. *Asia Wise* has not produced or suggested specific activities to accompany the themes featured as their use will vary according to the level, depth and curriculum context in which they are used.

We would welcome your response to this mode of presentation so that we may continue to tailor *Asia Wise* to your specific needs. We would be particularly interested to learn of the ways these materials were used in the classroom situation.

Materials review

TASDEC posters
Asian Studies Focus

The Tasmanian Development Education Centre (TASDEC) has recently produced a most valuable set of posters under the title of *Asian Studies Focus*. These seven, well presented posters contain useful information, facts, graphs and figures concerning a range of issues.

Each poster concentrates on a particular theme. These include **education, children, women, health, food and nutrition, sustainable growth and our future world.**

Drawing from sources such as UNICEF, the World Watch Institute, the World Development Report, the State of the World's Children, Women of the World, Freedom from Hunger and National Geographic, these resources are valid and the information offered is up to date.

Well laid out and presented, this set of posters which retail for $12.00 plus postage, represent a valuable resource for teachers and students.

They are available, on order from

TASDEC
4 Battery Square
Hobart 7000
(002) 344144

Issues on Australia's doorstep

Townsend, Kathleen, 1989, *Issues on Australia's doorstep*, One World Centre, Perth, $28.00 plus $2.50 postage.

This is a book for anyone interested in understanding more about 'development' and how Australia fits into the global picture.

Adapted from the highly successful British series, *Teaching development issues*, the material has been reworked to form a comprehensive single text crammed full of up-to-date information for an Australian audience.

Seven key issues, **Perceptions, Colonialism, Food, Health, Population, Work** and **Aid and Development** are all analysed in detail from an Australian perspective. Readers are encouraged to explore the topics through a myriad of activities. Packed with illustrations, cartoons and graphic material the book is suitable for use by teachers and pupils of geography, social studies, English, economics, development studies, history, health, human biology, ethics and food and nutrition.

Available on order from

One World Centre
79 Stirling Street
Perth 6000
(09) 220 0629

Women in Asia datafile

Population statistics

	total millions '88	density per sq km	annual growth '80-'87	% age urban	life expectancy all	life expectancy females as a %age of males	birth/death rates	%age under 15	mortality rates infant	mortality rates maternal
CAMBODIA	7.9	43	2.6	11	49	106.1	41/16	35	199	..
NEPAL	18.2	124	2.6	9	51	97.6	39/15	41	197	830
BHUTAN	1.5	32.2	1.9	5	48	96.9	38/17	40	197	770
BANGLADESH	109.6	762	2.7	13	51	98.6	42/15	46	188	600
PAKISTAN	114.9	119	3.7	31	57	100.0	47/12	43	166	500
LAOS	3.8	16	2.1	18	49	106.3	41/16	43	159	..
INDIA	818.8	253	2.2	27	58	100.3	32/11	38	149	340
INDONESIA	175.0	91	1.8	27	56	105.1	27/11	40	119	450
MYANMAR	40.0	58	2.1	24	60	105.9	30/10	39	95	135
VIETNAM	64.2	203	2.2	21	62	107.4	32/9	40	88	140
PHILIPPINES	59.5	196	2.6	41	64	106.1	33/8	39	73	93
THAILAND	54.1	107	1.8	22	65	106.4	22/7	36	49	..
SRI LANKA	16.8	258	1.6	21	70	106.2	22/6	35	43	60
CHINA	1104.0	194	1.3	21	70	104..4	21/7	29	43	44
NORTH KOREA (DPRK)	21.9	10	2.4	66	69	109.8	29/5	39	33	41
SOUTH KOREA (ROK)	42.6	434	1.4	69	69	109.4	19/6	30	33	26
MALAYSIA	16.6	53	2.3	41	70	106.0	29/6	37	32	59
SINGAPORE	2.6	4 333	1.1	100	73	108.0	16/6	24	12	5
AUSTRALIA	16.4	2	1.3	85	76	109.1	15/7	23	10	8
HONG KONG	5.7	5 337	1.5	93	76	107.7	16/6	23	10	5
JAPAN	122.4	324	0.6	77	78	107.6	11/7	21	8	16

Education statistics

	primary male/female	% complete primary	secondary male/female	university students	literacy male/female
CAMBODIA	../..	50	45/20	..	85/65
NEPAL	76/35	28	35/11	64 925	39/12
BHUTAN	../..	..	7/2	717	../..
BANGLADESH	67/44	20	24/11	43 500	43/22
PAKISTAN	../..	49	26/11	550 000	40/19
LAOS	../..	14	23/16	20 093	92/76
INDIA	../..	..	50/27	3 800 000	57/29
INDONESIA	99/97	80	../..	1 440 000	83/65
MYANMAR	../..	27	../..	211 493	../..
VIETNAM	../..	50	44/41	..	88/80
PHILIPPINES	94/94	75	66/66	2 050 000	86/85
THAILAND	../..	64	../..	180 556	94/88
SRI LANKA	100/100	88	63/69	19 966	91/83
CHINA	99/91	68	50/37	2 000 000	82/56
NORTH KOREA (DPRK)	../..	99	../..	..	../..
SOUTH KOREA (ROK)	100/99	99	91/86	1 100 000	96/88
MALAYSIA	../..	97	59/59	47 946	81/66
SINGAPORE	100/100	95	70/73	44 747	93/79
AUSTRALIA	97/98	..	96/99	180 000	../..
HONG KONG	95/95	98	71/76	32 975	95/81
JAPAN	100/100	99	95/97	1 990 000	../..

Sources: *The State of the World's Children 1990*, UNICEF
Asia Yearbook 1989, Far Eastern Economic Review

1 — legal rights

Young South Asian girls are pitiable
Priya Darshins

The state of the female child in Asia continues to be pitiable even as the world moves into the 21st century. At a recent workshop delegates found that, except perhaps in the case of Bhutan, discrimination starts plaguing the female even before she is born, and continues into adulthood. The situation was assessed as follows;

India — Of the 12 million girls born every year in India, 1.5 million do not live to celebrate their first birthday and 0.85 million die before they are five. Those who survive have to contend with malnutrition, poor health and early pregnancies. Almost 25 percent are illiterate. She provides valuable child labour but is treated with contempt by both her parents and society.

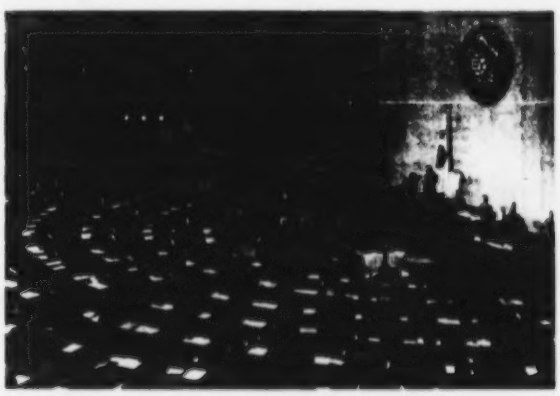
Extreme social bias against women is seen in the continued use of amniocentesis as a test to determine the sex of the unborn child. If found to be female, the foetuses may be aborted even at great risk to the mother. In a sample study, only one of 8 000 foetuses aborted was male.

A girl is seen as a liability chiefly because of the dowry or bride price the parents must pay to marry her off. They find it hard to remove from their minds that they are raising her to serve someone else.

Nepal — The female child in Nepal is no better off. Subarna Laxmi Singh in her paper said — 'The birth of a girl, unlike a son, is no occasion to rejoice. The birth of a daughter casts gloom as she is considered a liability.' Parental bias in favour of sons, she explained, has been shaped largely by religious and socio-economic factors. Hinduism sees a son as necessary to carry out rituals for the salvation of his dead parents' souls. Parents also fall back on their sons for support in their old age. However, parents prefer the first child to be a girl so she can help in housework and care of the siblings.

Bhutan —Apart from southern Bhutan where Hinduism is the common religion, the delegates said there was no discrimantion between female and male children in their country. Education and employment opportunities are the same as are rights to family property. There is no child marriage, nor is dowry practised. A girl is free to choose her husband and legal agreements ensure the women's security in case of divorce.

Pakistan — Facing the same problems as India, the universal hope is that now a woman Prime Minister is at the helm things will improve.



Again feminists draft charter for equality of sexes
Kuala Lumpur

What do women really want? Women's rights advocates in Asia have come up with an answer that also appeals to lawmakers and enforcers to end discrimination against women.

A rapist is convicted on overwhelming evidence but gets the minimum penalty. The victim is said to be of 'loose morals' and even to have invited the assault. A man is arrested for beating his wife but released on mere admonition because it is a 'family matter'. Husbands, after all, are supposed to have dominion over their wives.

A married woman cannot travel abroad, borrow from a bank, buy real estate or undergo sterilisation without her husband's consent. In many instances, the law has been unfair to women — not so much from malice as from the force of social prejudice.

In December, 1988, women from 12 countries in the region met in Kuala Lumpur to draft a *Charter of values for policies and laws affecting women*. The conference sponsored by the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development hopes the Charter will reach those who implement the law, like judges whose personal values and biases often colour their decisions. At least the Charter comprehensively answers the question — '**what do women really want**?'

The standards could be very useful in the formulation of a Uniform Civil Code. The clamour for such a code is very strong in India. Differing Hindu, Muslim and Christian personal laws not only discriminate against women in certain ways but also enable men to use the law to their advantage. For example a Hindu male who wants more than one wife cannot have his wish under the Hindu Marriage Act, so he 'converts' to Islam.

Feminists score major victory in South Korea Cheong-Ja Lee

Over three decades of hard work and perseverance by South Korean women who fought for the revision of their country's Family Law have at last borne fruit.

The National Assembly passed a bill amending the Family Law in December '89. This entitles a divorced woman to a share of the couple's property based on her contribution to it. Custody of children which was automatically given to the father upon divorce will now be decided in court.

Drastic changes in the property inheritance system will eliminate discrimination against daughters. Upon the husband's death, a childless widow will be entitled to half of the inheritance, with the other half going to the husband's parents.

2 — education

Education for all

Manolo B. Jara

Delegates from more than 100 countries meeting in the Thai city of Jomtien, have just adopted a major document aimed at propelling concerted global action at the rising scourge of illiteracy. Jomtien means 'candle' in Thai, and as such the Jomtien Declaration will attempt to light the way toward providing education for all by the year 2000.

Consider these alarming statistics contained in the Declaration. More than:

- 100 million children have no access to primary schooling;
- 960 million adults, two-thirds of whom are women, are illiterate;
- two-thirds of the world's adults have no access to printed knowledge, new skills and technologies that could improve the quality of their lives and help them to shape and adapt to social and cultural change; and
- 100 million children and countless adults fail to complete basic education programs; millions more satisfy the attendance requirement but do not acquire essential knowledge and skills.

School is out for most girls

Emma Ruth Zafra

If education equips one for a better life, greater ability to earn an income, feed one's family, fight for one's rights, get on in the world — then women are losing out early in the game by not getting much or any schooling.

A UNESCO report points to some of the shortcoming of educational systems.

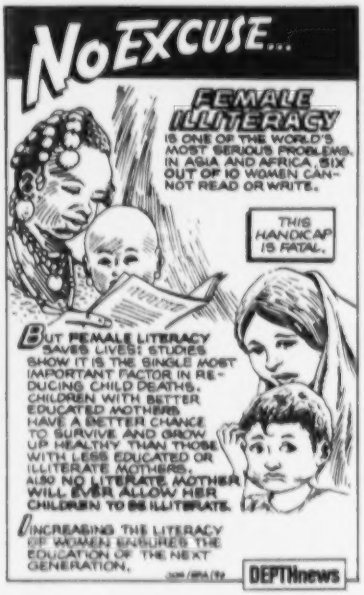
Even if free education is available, children are prevented from going if they can help at home or on the farm. In the case of girls, their household and economic activities include collecting water, firewood and fodder, looking after livestock, helping on the farm and shouldering household and childcare responsibilities. Their working day is even reported to be equal to that of an adult male.

Educating more women cause for critical concern

Suchin Preecha

The appalling low level of education among girls and women has made the expansion of educational programs for them a 'critical concern' said United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The UN Assembly has proclaimed 1990 as International Literacy Year.

'No long term process of development is likely to flourish unless women are able to read, write, calculate and understand the environment better,' said a UNESCO spokesperson.


NO EXCUSE...
FEMALE ILLITERACY
IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS. IN ASIA AND AFRICA, SIX OUT OF 10 WOMEN CANNOT READ OR WRITE.
THIS HANDICAP IS FATAL.
BUT FEMALE LITERACY SAVES LIVES! STUDIES SHOW IT IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN REDUCING CHILD DEATHS. CHILDREN WITH BETTER EDUCATED MOTHERS HAVE A BETTER CHANCE TO SURVIVE AND GROW UP HEALTHY THAN THOSE WITH LESS EDUCATED OR ILLITERATE MOTHERS. ALSO NO LITERATE MOTHER WILL EVER ALLOW HER CHILDREN TO BE ILLITERATE.
INCREASING THE LITERACY OF WOMEN ENSURES THE EDUCATION OF THE NEXT GENERATION.
DEPTHnews

Experts believe that educating women has positively affected economic growth, family size, child survival and the health and school performance of children. Studies have shown that the higher the mother's education level, the lower the mortality rate of her children and the better sanitation, nutrition and health practices of her family. Expanding the educational opportunities for girls at the primary level has a greater impact on 'long-term economic prosperity' in some of the world's poorest countries than doing the same for boys.

Another study has shown, 'women with secondary schooling are 10 times more likely to practise family planning than women who have no education. But more girls than boys continue to be deprived of primary education because of the persistence of notions on gender and sex roles. Adult women who want to become literate also face constraints.

Despite the difficulties, many women have shown eagerness to learn to read and write. Some simply want to help their children with the day's lessons or to sign their names. For most, however, literacy means power — the ability to be in fuller control of one's life, and to have greater freedom.

Secondly, parents may not be exactly averse to sending their daughters to school. But in the face of scant resources, it is the boys who get the schooling priority because of the common thinking that girls will become homemakers anyway.

'The third set of barriers to education include lack of schools and women teachers, overcrowding, poor classroom facilities and ill-qualified teachers, inaccessibility of schools because of lack of roads and transport, uniform and rigid school schedules and gender bias in the curriculum.

3 — work

More Asian women becoming more active economically, but . . .

Suchin Preecha

Hard times as well as fresh opportunites and changing values have been prompting more women in Asia to join the region's so-called 'economically active' population.

However, women's participation in economic activity remains much lower than that of men, averaging 40-50 percent to men's 75-88 percent.

The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) gives a profile of women's economic participation in its 1988 economic and social survey of the region.

The highest participation rates were reported by China and Thailand, where 70.6 percent of women aged 15 and above are engaged in economic activity. Other countries with relatively higher participation rates for women are Hong Kong, 48.9 percent, Philippines, 48 percent, Japan, 47.7 percent and Australia, 47.6 percent. Reporting lowest figures were Bangladesh, 7.9 percent and Pakistan, 9.6 percent.

ESCAP cautions against a cross-country comparison because of differences of definition. For example endeavours such as unpaid work on farms and other family business may be counted in one country but not another.

ESCAP says that 'social attitudes remain strong that the appropriate role for women is in household management and bearing and nurturing of children.'

Another factor is education. Data shows that labour force participation is high for women from upper-income groups who have access to secondary and higher education and tend to enter the professions.

Manufacturing has figured significantly in employing women, particularly in the Newly Industrialising Economies (NIEs). This is because in these economies many of the export-oriented industries — textiles, garments, footwear, electronics and food-processing — are typically those that employ a high proportion of women. Of those employed in export-processing and free trade zones, at least 80 percent are women in Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand, and at least 75 percent in the Philippines and South Korea.

ESCAP notes that female hands dominate the assembly lines, with women making up as many as 90 percent of assembly line personnel in food canneries and microchip production.

The service sector also absorbs a lot of women bringing to fore the issue of job-stereotyping. ESCAP notes that generally in both industrialised and agricultural societies, 'jobs requiring nurturing (education, medical professions, social sector activities) or activities similar to housework (preparing and processing food, producing and mending clothing, manufacturing artifacts and implements) are predominantly done by women.'

And whether it is in manual labour or professions, add ESCAP, the place of women is at the lower levels of hierarchy. As a result, gaping differences may be observed in the wage levels of women and men. In India, Japan and South Korea, women's earning are only 45 percent of men's.

William H Draper III Administrator of the United Nations Development Program described women as half the energy, half the creativity, half the human development in the world.

Success stories from DEPTHnews

India

India now has its first woman High Court Judge. Born the eldest of a family of eight children, Justice Beevi recalls, 'It was really tough for a woman to enter the legal profession. When I was at college there were only three Moslem girls out of 500 students and the Law College had only two women.'

She goes on to comment, 'Give women a good education, financial independence and foster better understanding between women and men and most social problems will be solved.

Hong Kong

With seven years until Hong Kong is handed over to China many professionals have left to settle elsewhere. This has opened the door to enterprising people from other countries.

Thelma from the Philippines is now the sales manager for an international computer firm.

Lina, visited Hong Kong last year and stayed. She now works as a sub-editor for a magazine.

Dew, an accounting graduate, is working as a secretary for a brokerage company that deals in bonds, stocks and gold bullion.

Philippines

A concrete example of how the UNDP has helped women is the case of Amelita dela Vega of the Philippines. Born with deformed hands and feet, she was a beneficiary of a project helping handicapped people become economically independent.

In the last few years, Amelita has built a home garment-making enterprise which now exports $200 000 worth of garments yearly.

4 — the media

Kit aims to correct stereotyped image of women in media

A Indrani

The image of Asian women in the media may yet be corrected with the distribution of a kit called *Into focus: changing media images of women, an Asian resource kit*. Prepared by an international group of experts from various fields it deals in depth with five issues of major concern to women in Asia today: media, family, work, health and violence.

Seven hours of video material is drawn from TV commercials, dramas, music videos, musicals and news from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. Supported by printed material and slides it is designed for use by media workers, would-be professionals and women's and social action groups that have a special interest in the media.

Recent studies of media content in a number of Asian countries showed that women were portrayed in a very limited range of roles. With few exceptions, the media supports the traditional view of women with family, home and domesticity. The world of work is commonly portrayed as a male world.

The report points out that the message that 'women do not work' is fostered by showing women as housewives and mothers or in a restricted range of occupations, like nurses, secretaties, teachers and air hostesses.

Images that challenge this assumption — such as women as industrial or agricultural workers, doctors, lawyers or engineers — are extremely rare, according to the report.

It laments that although women are universally expected and groomed to assume the role of wife and mother, the labour associated with this is neither recognised or even compensated.

Japan's super dry girl, you've come a long way

(Far Eastern Economic Review)

Women magazine readers throughout Japan are being wooed. New periodicals are on the newsstand and all are aimed at women. In targeting specific age groups and lifestyles, these magazines represent a new trend in Japanese publications. Until now, most women's magazines have been fashion-oriented and aimed at no particular group — reflecting, perhaps, the longstanding predictability of a Japanese woman in this highly structured society.

Not suprisingly, the contents of the new crop of magazines are as varied as the lives of the women at which they are aimed. The less ambitious among them are intended to appeal to Japan's vast corps of office ladies, or OLs, as they are known here. The OLs are women in their 20s who are following a long Japanese tradition of filling in the few years that separate school graduation and marriage.

Others reflect the potentially profound changes taking place in the lives of Japanese women. Although few in number, there is an unmistakable trend towards women taking their place on the Japanese corporate ladder for the first time. More broadly, women are entering the general workforce in greater numbers than ever before.

If there is a Western counterpart to Japan's new OL magazines, it would probably fall somewhere between *Cosmopolitan* and *Cleo*. The ideal woman of the publication *Peach* is the 'Super Dry Girl'. A dry girl is confident; a dry girl does not wear jewellery; a dry girl easily operates computers and word-processors. A competitor, the *Nikkei Woman*, is targeted at four kinds of women: those climbing the corporate ladder; women who want to change jobs; housewives who want to return to the workplace; and women keen to start a new business.

Japan's new women's magazines reflect changes in society.

Rape scenes are 'hot' items in Indian cinema

Priya Darshini

The international 'porn boom' of the 1960s had its effect on Indian films as well. Not only did more and more violence on the silver screen become the order of the day but the portrayal of women crossed all limits of decency.

Members of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) point out that movie makers have discovered more and more exploitative ways of filming rape. One journalist commented after watching sections deleted from films that the depiction of violence against women was of the most lurid and objectionable kind. The good news is that the CBFC is instituting provisions to prevent the image of Indian women from being further lowered.

Women broadcast journalists prove mettle in aborted coup

Wilhelmina Orozco

In the coup attempt of late 1989 Filipino women broadcast journalists braved getting out the news even as bombs dropped, or bullets whizzed by. Ms Charie Villa of TV station Channel 2 comments on her experience — '*Nakadapa ako sa lupa. Nagtsa-chatter ang ngipin ko. Face to face Kami ng aso, naninginig sa takot at and ngipin nangangatal din sa takot.*' (I was lying on my stomach on the ground, my teeth chattering. I was face to face with a dog, also shaking with fear and its teeth also chattering.)

5 — health

Mother's health not just a problem during pregnancy

Estela Carreon

The health of children in the developing world is a matter of worldwide concern. These children are four times more likely to die than their counterparts in developed countries. Third world women are, however, just as much of an emergency case. For them, the risk of dying in pregnancy is about 50 to 100 times the risk for women in developed countries.

Dr Winikoff in a paper *Studies in family planning* showed that over 99 percent of the 500 000 deaths related to pregnancy every year occur in developing countries.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) report shows maternal mortality to be the first or second cause of death of women aged 25 to 34 in more than half of the developing countries which had data.

Many maternal deaths are due to improperly performed abortions. An overview of studies on maternal mortality, she said, 'suggests... that in the order of 25-50 percent of maternal deaths are the result of poorly performed abortion procedures.'

According to Dr Winikoff, women suffer from two main types of morbidity — nutritional problems and infection — which may be traced to ill health in childhood and often can lead to serious health problems for their children.

A major nutritional problem is calorie deficiency. The latest World Bank figures estimate that 340 million people are consuming fewer calories than needed to prevent stunted growth and/or severe health risks. Over half this number do not get enough calories for an active working life.

'Given the pattern of nutritional discrimination against young girls and women, the situation may even be more serious for them,' said Dr Winikoff. Not only is the undernourished mother-to-be in danger during pregnancy, she is also likely to give birth to a low-weight child whose 'peri-natal mortality rate is 30 times higher than that of an infant of normal birth weight.'

Another problem is nutritional anemia which is caused not by metabolic defects or blood loss but by lack of nutrients like iron, folate and B12. In a review in 1985, the WHO estimated 59 percent of pregnant and 47 percent of all women in developing countries (except China) to be anaemic, largly because of iron deficiency. The condition was most prevalent in South Asia and Africa where almost two-thirds were anaemic.

Dr Winikoff also listed neonatal tetanus and malaria as needing attention. Neonatal tetanus, a major cause of death in the first two weeks of life in South Asia and parts of Africa, may be accompanied by maternal tetanus. Malaria, which could worsen anaemia and lead to spontaneous abortion or foetal death, also adds to the risk of cerebral malaria and death in a pregnant woman.

Combating a killer of Third World babies

Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB)

In the central Philippines, a pioneering health project funded by AIDAB and run almost entirely by women is helping to find ways of combating one of the three biggest killers of young children in the Third World — Acute Respiratory Infection. ARI, as it is commonly known, has long been ranked by health authorities alongside diarrhoea and malnutrition as a leading cause of death among babies and infants in the poorer developing countries.

This is still the case, except that mortality from diarrhoea has been greatly reduced by the application of modern treatment methods such as oral rehydration, while an adequate diet is what is needed to eliminate malnutrition.

ARI, however, is more complex and has proved more difficult to come to grips with. The term ARI covers everything from a simple cough to pneumonia. ARI is more potentially dangerous in developing countries because children are often malnourished. If infants with pneumonia do not quickly receive proper medical care, including proper treatment with antibiotics, they die.

The AIDAB-funded project in Bohol began in 1983 and covers some 21 000 children under five living in a mainly rural area. Its approach is two-pronged:

- Improving case management, by training paramedical workers to recognise ARI cases, assess the severity of infection and judge whether there is need for antibiotic therapy; and
- health education — teaching mothers the signs of ARI, what to worry about, what to do when the child has only a minor sniffle and cough, and when to bring the child to a health care centre for treatment.

When the project began, the death rate for non-measles-associated ARI among children under five in that part of Bohol was 6.7 per 1000. After two years' intervention by the health program, the rate was down to 4.8 per 1000 — a reduction of more than a quarter.

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Australia-Indonesia: a developing relationship

Indonesia is one of Australia's nearest and most significant neighbours. Despite this geographic closeness, or possibly because of this fact, relations between the two countries have not always been as good as they could be. Australia began its life as a British colony and, after Federation, maintained a strongly 'British' outlook.

Many Australians felt uneasy about the country's close proximity to Asia and felt the isolation of being a 'European' nation in the Asian region. A variety of problems have arisen over the years which have placed some strains on relations between Australia and Indonesia, but more recent developments have given hope that things are improving.

Indonesia's Foreign Minister, Mr Ali Alatas and Mr Gareth Evans, the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs met in March 1989 and the Indonesian-Australian relationship has been developing more positively. Foreign Affairs and Trade Ministry Secretary, Richard Woolcott, described the two nations as coming out of a 'period of drought.'

Indonesian and Australian officials are, today, looking more closely at the things we have in common rather than those things which separate us. Trade between the two countries last year was in the vicinity of $1.2 billion. Australia is the sixth largest supplier to the Indonesian market. Last year Australian exports to Indonesia rose by 25 percent and business is eagerly looking to lift these figures — particularly as relations continue to improve.

(Department of Information, Republic of Indonesia)

Exchanges are not only restricted to trade and business. People-based exchanges are growing as well. There are 6 500 Indonesian students studying in Australia. During 1989 almost 30 000 Indonesians visited Australia and 150 000 Australian tourists passed through Indonesia.

Geographically the two nations are close. However, from the points of view of history, culture, population, as well as social and political traditions the two could not be more different. For both countries these differences need not be a problem but rather offer many valuable prospects.

The developing good relations between the two countries are to be welcomed. Recent history, however, has not been quite so positive. Indonesia, in its short history, has seen itself the subject of considerable criticism. The most recent period, since 1975, saw Australians voicing loud disapproval concerning the forced annexation by Indonesia of neighbouring East Timor. The Australian media have often found Indonesia to be a frustrating place. Australian journalists were refused entry following publication of articles critical of Indonesia and its political system. The killing of five Australian journalists in East Timor has left a bitter memory. It is hoped that the growing relationship between the two nations can overcome this past history.

Australia's future lies in establishing and maintaining strong relationships with our near neighbours within the Asian region. From a purely trade-related point of view a country such as Indonesia takes on special importance. It will, as its economy grows, need more of the products which Australia produces. From the point of view of cultural exchange and furthering good relationships between people, Australia can gain much from countries like Indonesia.

Overcoming 'letter blindness'

Developing nations like Indonesia have a great many difficulties to overcome. One of the most pressing is the fight against illiteracy. This year is International Literacy Year and Indonesia has made a bold prediction that by the year 1995 it will have achieved full literacy in the 7-44 year age group.

This is a rather optimistic estimate considering that currently there are some 23.4 million Indonesians aged 20 and over who cannot read or write. The Indonesian term for literate is *melek huruf* which when translated means letter vision. The term for illiterate is *buta huruf* or letter blindness. The struggle against illiteracy then takes on an appealing 'sight giving' quality. The period between 1970 and 1985 showed that big advances can be made in the work to overcome letter blindness. Illiteracy among women dropped from 58 percent to 35 percent while the figures for men fell from 34 percent to 17 percent.

To overcome illiteracy is always a major problem for any developing nation but Indonesia has the added problem of having such a scattered population. The country is made up of thousands of islands and many languages are spoken. The other major difficulty is the same for all countries trying to defeat illiteracy. While small children may learn easily, adults find the process far more difficult. Learning to read after many years is a very difficult task.

(QANTAS)

Another big difficulty for the campaigners is that many people attend classes and actually do acquire basic literacy skills. However, they leave the classes and with no practice often lose the skills which they had learned.

The Indonesian education authorities, in an attempt to overcome this problem, have begun offering financial incentives such as loans to those who complete basic literacy courses and continue to study.

Education is being seen more and more in developing nations as being central to their future. As Indonesia's Education Minister, Fuad Hassan said at an International Literacy Day meeting in 1986, 'It is no exaggeration that proficiency in letters and figures enables people to raise their standard of living to heights they did not realise before.'

For this child, like millions of others in Indonesia, an education offers a much brighter future.

Turning on the sun

The atmosphere in the remote village of Sukatani on the island of Java is electric. What might be a better description is that the village has been electrified. The installation of a solar panel system has meant that people can now read and work at night, listen to radio or watch television.

Sukatani with a population of 1 000 now has solar power in 85 homes, three mosques, the local school and the village hall. Each home now receives enough power to light four lamps, a television set and a radio. The main industry in the village is the production of footballs and volleyballs.

Production figures have doubled since they were able to turn on the power.

Remote villages such as Sukatani have been at a disadvantage for a great many years as oil or diesel generation was too costly and hydro power was not possible. The Sukatani system is the first of 2 000 planned solar units to be built in Indonesia. At a cost of about $2.00 a month per household this new breakthrough makes good economic sense and will lift the basic standard of living for a great many Indonesians.

Aid and Indonesia

Indonesia is the main recipient of Australian development aid after Papua New Guinea. All aid is given on a grant basis which has the aim of assisting in the promotion of social and economic development, sustained growth and an even distribution of economic resources.

The aid program is of direct benefit to Indonesia but also assists Australia by offering contracts to Australian companies in order to put into practice different aid projects. Last year, for instance, more than 60 Australian companies and 40 government and semi-government organisations were involved in the program.

Aid programs are conducted in many parts of Indonesia and while the most heavily populated islands of Java and Sumatra continue to receive assistance, the general thrust of Australia's aid program is centred on the eastern islands of Indonesia which include some of the poorest provinces.

An example of this emphasis on aid to the poorer regions can be seen by the Nusa Tenggara Timur Integrated Area Development Project in West Timor. This is the poorest province in Indonesia. A study showed that a large-scale livestock development project would benefit some 80 000 farming families.

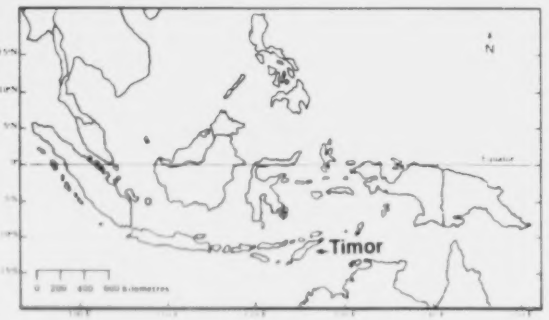
The project aims to raise living standards of the small farmers by improving water supplies and increasing the productivity of livestock and food crops. Through the increased production of livestock, poultry and crops — especially maize, peanuts and vegetables — the nutrition and health of the community will improve. By selling their surpluses, families who are barely making ends meet will be able to earn a cash income as well as feed themselves. The project will also teach the farmers about soil conservation and rehabilitation, in order to reduce the damaging effects on the environment of the present slash and burn method of cultivation. Abridged from Australia's Aid Program courtesy of AIDAB.

Collecting water from a dam at Besi Pae, West Timor (AIDAB)

A bitter history

The relationship between Australia and Indonesia has suffered some setbacks during Indonesia's short history. Perhaps the biggest setback to good relations in recent years was the annexation of East Timor. The Australian government has sought to develop stronger relationships between the two countries. The years since the Indonesian occupation of East Timor and its incorporation into Indonesia have seen resistance by the Timorese people and varying degrees of protest from Australians. However, the fact remains that East Timor, for good or bad, is today a part of Indonesia. East Timor was until 1974 a colony of Portugal.

Following a round of political manoeuvering and a bitter civil war, the left wing FRETILIN assumed control of the former colony. The western half of the island of Timor is a part of Indonesia. Given the extremely volatile conditions existing at the time and the Indonesian government's fear of a left wing government so close to its territory, they invaded in early December, 1975. Prior to the open invasion, Indonesia launched military operations from across the border. In the course of one of these, five Australian journalists were killed, adding to the ill-feeling expressed within Australia.



The invasion and ensuing struggle saw an estimated 150 000 casualties from a total population of just 650 000. FRETILIN maintained a guerrilla campaign from the mountains and today there are still occasional military contacts between the two forces. Numbers of Timorese refugees arrived in Australia following the fighting.

Fishing out the lagoon

The pressing question of conserving the world's natural resources is becoming more widely understood. There are times, however, when this poses acute dilemmas as the case of the fishermen of Segara Anakan and of nearby Cilacap are finding to their great cost.

Poverty-stricken fishermen at Segara Anakan have been forced to use fine-mesh nets to catch enough shrimp to make a living. This is contributing to the collapse of the Cilacap shrimp export business which earns $14 million a year. The young shrimp are taken before they can get to open waters where they mature and are caught by an offshore fishing fleet.

It is estimated that nearly 80 percent of the shrimp spend the early stages of life in the mangrove-lined lagoon at Segara Anakan but that unnaturally high levels of sediment are pouring into the lagoon which is further threatening the shrimp industry and the capacity of local fishermen to earn a living. As the neighbouring land, through erosion is washed into the lagoon, it is actually shrinking. Its present area is 1 400 hectares but this is expected to drop to just 550 hectares by the year 2 000 unless dramatic changes occur. As a result the 8 000 people living near the lagoon have been forced to begin feeding from the baby shrimp.

Fortunately, however, measures are being taken which should assist. A plan has been drawn up by Indonesian resource management experts from the ASEAN-US Coastal Resources Management Project and from the International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources Management. A local university will monitor water quality and the possibility of dredging the lagoon to clean out the sediment is also being examined. Villagers are to be educated in ecological matters. Local community organisations are to be involved in all of these measures.

The issue at stake is made more important as it is a testing ground for a major drive to sustainable development for Indonesia.

Farming the seas

Oil has been Indonesia's major source of income for many years but with sharp drops in the price of oil Indonesia has been urgently seeking new ways of earning an income. This nation of islands has a vast area of coastal waters and the country is now actively beginning to farm these waters. There is a big market to be built in seaweed harvesting, pearls and the export of fish products.

There has been a decline in natural fish stocks which has added to interest in sea farming. A UN Development Program funded a marketing project which showed that Indonesia has more than 80 000 hectares suitable for fish farms. At present there are 1.7 million Indonesians who earn their living from fishing but it is likely that with careful management of this potentially huge market the potential workforce would be many times greater and the income earning potential quite considerable.

Vegetables and health

Traditional Indonesian society has placed the eating of vegetables very low on any lists of priorities. Surveys do show that mothers understand the importance of vegetables to diet and yet very few put this knowledge into practice. Indonesian health authorities have begun to take a stronger hand as the lack of vegetables in diet leads to a lack of vitamin A which often leads to blindness in children.

The importance of this is shown by the fact that each year 60 000 Indonesian children go blind from vitamin A deficiencies. A project has been put into place near Padang in west Sumatra.

A major public awareness program was launched with 4 000 health workers being trained to counsel mothers. Radio was used extensively as were posters and banners. Popular singers were put to work to spread the message. It will take time to break down old ways but with the figure of 60 000 blind children each year, the urgency of the situation makes the campaign a must.

The forests – economy and ecology

Perhaps one of the most significant developments of recent years has been the growth in awareness on the part of individuals and governments alike of the need to conserve natural resources. Pictures of severely deforested hillsides have flashed alarm bells around the world. It would seem that Indonesian authorities are taking notice of the potentially devastating effects of long term misuse of forests and are acting to ensure a rational use of their forest resources.

Indonesia has 72 million hectares of forest. The government has indicated that it will allow the equivalent of just one cubic metre of timber to be taken from each hectare on an annual basis. This is designed to ensure that a realistic policy of reforestation will be achieved.

Some countries in the region have often ignored some of the more outrageous excesses on the part of logging companies, but recent news from Indonesia shows that they are taking a harsher view of things. Last year, for instance, 30 logging companies lost the right to take timber from Indonesia because they violated the country's regulations. Some hefty fines were handed out as well with one company being fined well over $400 000. Apart from the 30 companies who were denied any access to the forests, another 130 were fined for breaking Indonesian forestry laws.

While this is an encouraging sign, an even more significant event took place in Indonesia last year. Indonesia's ambassador to the United States, Abdul Rachman Ramily, speaking at a meeting in Bozeman, Montana and attended by representatives from the USA, USSR, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia and Japan, commented on Indonesia's 60 million hectares of rain forests, saying that 'these are wild tropical rain forests and they will always remain wild tropical rain forests.' Indonesia has banned all commercial operations in these protected forests which make up 34 percent of all Indonesian rainforest areas. They have even gone so far as to close them to Indonesians.

The ambassador also stressed that his country would continue what he described as the rational use of forest resources including the proportion of rainforests not included in the bans. 500 000 Indonesians are employed in the forestry industry. It would seem that a realistic balance between conservation and exploitation of natural resources can be achieved.

Asia's tropical forests are dwindling at an alarming rate. While much of this can be traced back to national and international logging companies' activities in the region, traditional slash and burn agriculture plays its part as well. This system, which sees farmers burning forests in order to plant a short-term crop using the ash as fertiliser, has decimated huge tracts of land.

Indonesia's President Suharto recently appealed to the rich, developed nations of the world to play a more constructive role in solving the problems of deforestation within the Asian region. Suharto's appeal spoke of the importance of the forests for the region stressing that they are vital not only for the ecological health of the world but also to the economic health of the region itself. Therefore, he pressed for the richer, more developed nations to play a bigger role in their preservation.

(P. Dombrovskis)

According to the Worldwatch Institute, only vigorous efforts to protect the remaining forests and a concerted campaign aimed at planting billions of trees can solve the crisis facing the forests. However, the simple truth is that many poor nations, suffering as they do from huge and crippling debts,

(P. Dombrovskis)

(P. Dombrovskis)

weak economies and population explosions are not in a position to come up with any real alternatives. These developing nations, in order to overcome overwhelming difficulties, need the active support, both moral and financial, of the rich developed nations.

Training for the tourist boom

A young man in a white chef's hat flips an omelet onto the waiting china plate. Young women arrange flowers and silverware. Breakfast is just beginning, but another young man is completing a dough sculpture of the Hindu elephant god in preparation for the evening meal. It's another typical morning at Indonesia's Hotel and Tourism Training Institute on Bali.

The Institute, supported by the UN Development Program and the International Labour Organisation, trains more than 2 750 students a year for the booming tourist industry. Some 1.3 million tourists visited Indonesia last year spending about $1.5 billion and creating a million jobs for Indonesians. Tourism will double by the year 1994, and move from the country's fifth to the third largest money spinner.

The Institute also trains students from other developing countries including Bangladesh, Fiji and Nepal. There are 70 staff members including UN volunteers from both Australia and the USA who teach English. Standards are high and expectations great. Eighty percent of each intake complete the course taking their place in this vast industry linking the beauty of Indonesia with first class hospitality.

(L. Tandy)

The art of gentler tourism

Indonesian authorities have been placing great emphasis on the development of tourism. Their focus has been on building modern hotels and providing enticing package tours to lure foreign tourists and their dollars. While this careful planning was being put into practice, a more informal tourist promotion has begun, with little assistance from officialdom.

People of the Ubud district in Bali have, on their own initiative, begun a promotion to draw tourists to their community and, for a fee, offer accommodation with Balinese families. Unlike most of Bali's hotel chains, all money stays in the community. Much of the profit is spent on reconstruction of temples and religious festivals. The result is that tourism in the region is acting to strengthen Balinese culture. This is important as the effect of tourism often means an actual weakening of the local culture.

In the early 1970s only three families were offering their homes to tourists. Today this figure has topped the 200 mark. For about $10 a night the visitor gets bed and breakfast accommodation as well as detailed information from their hosts. A side issue to this has been the growth of Balinese restaurants and a flourishing of local arts and crafts.

No one in Ubud seems concerned that tourism will mean problems for Balinese culture. The strength and resilience of Balinese culture in the face of change is a thing of wonder.
DEPTHnews

(I. Lancaster)

The lure of the 'fire mountains'

The island of Krakatau virtually disappeared on 26 August 1883 as result of probably the most famous volcano in the world. The explosions were heard 5 600km away in Sri Lanka and in Western Australia. Tidal waves 45 metres high smashed the coast of Java killing 36 000 people. What remains is a smaller volcano *Anak Krakatau* or Child of Krakatau. This is one of 128 active volcanoes in Indonesia and is becoming an attraction for the more adventurous tourist.

Today the fishing village of Carita, 160km west of Java is taking on the look of a resort town. From this village the tours to Krakatau begin. The 50km trip, by motor boat, takes the brave souls to the volcano. To hire such a boat costs the group about $250. The climb to the top takes about an hour. Side-stepping the vents of steam from cracks in the slope and getting used to the smell of sulphuric gas, the tourists are treated to some of the most spectacular scenery that the world has to offer.

The Paris of Java

A feature of life in cities in this country is the on-going struggle between developers and those who wish to save the remaining older buildings. This is not a peculiarly Australian affair. In Indonesia there is a tale of two cities in this regard. Jakarta has been busily pulling down and building up for years now. A few hours to the south is the city of Bandung. The city fathers of Bandung have been just as busy — restoring and conserving its cultural heritage.

Bandung was once known as the 'Paris of Java' with its heavy concentration of 'tropical art deco' buildings. During colonial times, Bandung was the administrative capital of the colony. Jakarta may have been the business centre but Bandung was the home of the civil service, social services and the home of a unique Indo-European architecture which mixed European designs with an Indonesian setting.

The city has, of course, lost some of its old buildings along the way. A prison, where Independence leader Sukarno was held, is now a shopping centre and a concrete block now stands where there was once a grand old theatre. The old colonial history is something many Indonesians choose not to remember, but as the team of architects responsible for preserving old Bandung maintain, you can't cut out bits and pieces from your history.

Gold rush in Jakarta

Demolition teams are a common scene in today's Jakarta. The Indonesian capital is a site of continual development as older buildings tumble to the wreckers and new buildings take their place.

One of the more recent casualties of progress is the Senen Triangle, once a part of old Jakarta's Chinatown and a thriving centre for the trade in gold and jewelry. Soon it will be a modern business district with a hotel, offices and a new shopping complex. Another issue was the presence of either scavengers or modern-day gold prospectors, depending on your view of those panning for gold in puddles in the main street. Large amounts of gold dust are being found where once the gold merchants ran their businesses. Some gold-panners, using biscuit tins to sift for dust were finding gold worth about $150 a day. Others were seen asking proprietors of gold shops, soon to be moved on, for the dust from the floor to sift for the precious specks.

The area, when redeveloped, will retain much of the facade of the old centre, and most residents seem content with the large compensation payout and relocation to other parts of the city. Some, however, are still puzzling as to why the area was not preserved as a tourist attraction.

Putting out the welcome mat

(Department of Information, Republic of Indonesia)

Indonesia, in a bid to attract more foreign investment, has eased restrictions for foreign companies. Since the 1970s, the Indonesians had been compiling a list of business areas which were prohibited to foreign interests. This list had grown to more than 1 000. Under the new system, the list has been slashed to just 75 restricted areas.

The reasoning, on the part of the Indonesian government, is that for the country to be able to compete in the region, they need more investment. The Indonesian Finance Minister put it simply when he said that 'we have to provide more jobs and we have to have the economy grow.' History, of course, will decide whether or not the gamble will be a bigger success for Indonesia or benefit the foreign investors more.

(Department of Information, Republic of Indonesia)

The creatures time forgot

Five dragons have appeared in Jakarta. However, there have been no signs of panic at Jakarta's Ragunan Zoo where the dragons are currently staying. Workers at the zoo have not put in any claims for danger money either. In fact everyone seems quite pleased with their new guests.

The dragons are not the fire-breathing variety, but Komodo Dragons — the monitor lizards found only on Komodo island. There are only 5 000 of these dragons still living in the wild and this is only the second time they have been successfully bred in captivity. The baby dragons, like their mother who is 2.5 metres long and weighs 125kg, eat only meat.

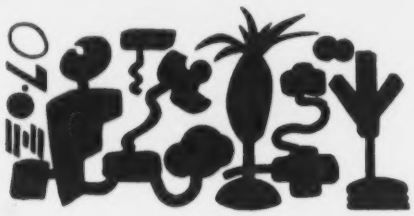
The dragons are, in fact, quite fierce and in the wild live by preying on deer and even small wild boar. An adult dragon can get through more than 4kg of meat a week, so even if they don't breathe fire it might still be best to give them a fairly wide berth should you stumble upon one.

Zolo — the toy of the year

It has been described as the toy for all ages and toy experts around the world have hailed it as the hottest new product to hit the shelves in years. Two young graphic designers, Sandra Higashi and Byron Glaser set themselves a tough assignment when they decided to make the 'best toy in the world' and one that would still be around for generations to come. They cast their eyes over the market and found most toys were either violent or lacking any real stimulus. They set to work and ended up with Zolo which is made up from 56 unusually coloured and oddly shaped pieces of wood which can be fitted together in almost any combination imaginable.

The only real problem they faced was finding someone to produce and market their new creation. Because it doesn't fit any category and can be 'anything you want it to be' it was difficult to find a manufacturer brave enough to gamble on the new idea. Eventually a producer was found — in Indonesia. The American inventors were well pleased. Both had long been impressed with Indonesian artistry and their new product fitted well with traditional Indonesian wood crafts.

At present about 1 000 toys are produced each month by a workforce of about 500 people. Each piece is hand carved and painted. Indonesian craftspeople are employing the same skills which have made their work famous around the world. So keep an eye out for Zolo but you had better be quick. Competition for them is tough.



(L. Tandy)

Indonesia — aiming high

The potential for Indonesia to establish a spaceport for the launching of satellites is gathering support. Indonesia is, of course, conveniently close to the equator which means less fuel is required to launch the satellites into orbit around the earth. In the past, both Japan and China have indicated that they would be willing to get involved in a joint venture with Indonesia, but the ideas have never resulted in anything positive.

The idea is again hotting up with an American company expressing interest. However, before any decisions are taken the interested parties are looking at the market possibilities as any such project would need to be able to pay its own way. Here they are not alone. Both Hawaii and Australia are also keen to establish similar launch sites. The difficulty lies in the fact that only one satellite launch site could be an economic goer in the region, and so it would seem that the race is well and truly on.

ISSUE FOUR 1990

TEACHERS' SECTION

ISSN 1031-5918

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Australia and Indonesia – building for the future

Indonesia is a developing nation with a population in excess of 177 million and geographically very close to Australia. Its importance to Australia lies in a variety of spheres — strategic as well as economic. Politically the two nations share certain perceptions. While Indonesia is a member of the Non-Aligned Movement and Australia is firmly committed to the US Alliance, both countries have similar view-points on international and regional issues. It would be reasonable, therefore, to assume that such proximity in geography and viewpoints would indicate a closeness and warmth of relations between the two countries. Throughout the history of Indonesia, however, such has not been the case.

Traditionally Australia has looked to Europe for security. Being a former British colony meant a certain clinging to things British. The period following the Second World War saw Australia switch its allegiance to the USA. Today Australia is beginning to face the reality of its geography and old fears of Asia are starting to recede.

The less than warm relationship between Australia and Indonesia is starting to improve. Recent developments in foreign policy have drawn the two closer together. Trade is increasing. Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Senator Gareth Evans, speaking at a major conference, hosted jointly by the Australian National University and the Australia-Indonesia Institute, stated that 'Australia-Indonesia relations

have entered a new period of confidence building, a period of practical cooperation for concrete results.'

The conference, entitled *Indonesia's New Order: Past, Present and Future*, as Senator Evans commented, did not focus on 'the Indonesian-Australian relationship, nor about the country's external relations at all. But the breadth of internal themes — ranging as they do across political, economic, environmental, cultural and demographic themes — will constitute a very significant contribution to a better understanding in Australia of Indonesia.'

Security issues were to the fore in Evans' address to the conference. He stressed that Indonesia, along with Papua New Guinea is central to 'Australian security interests.' He laid emphasis on the fact that both countries share similar perceptions on security issues within the region.

One particularly important issue that the minister addressed in his speech was that of getting to know each other better. Commenting on the fact that, in terms of history, culture, demography, language and political and social traditions, there could hardly be two neighbours with as many differences, he pointed out that these differences placed special burdens and obligations on the two countries. There is a greater need to understand each other better. 'The constituency of Australians and Indonesians who know and understand their neighbouring country needs to be expanded to include a new generation of not just scholars, writers, journalists and diplomats, but also business and professional people — not to mention politicians.'

It would be foolish in the extreme to draw the conclusion from Senator Evans comments that past mistrust and occasional tensions are now consigned to history. Difficulties will, in all likelihood arise from time to time. What is important is that both sides continue to make efforts to understand each other.

This issue of *Asia Wise* looks at Indonesia as a developing nation and at some of the points of contact between the two countries and the importance of developing positive relationships with Indonesia. As Senator Evans said in his concluding remarks we must 'work to ensure that our two communities are not strangers to each other and that relations between us continue to grow in a constructive and open spirit.'

Indonesian worksheets & resources

In this issue:

- Australia & Indonesia— Trade and tourism
- Classroom wall map of Indonesia
- Materials review

In Asia Wise Workbook NO. 1:

- Information sheet —

  Young nation, ancient land
- Mark on the map
- Indonesian datafile
- Language worksheets —

  1. Penggunaan bahasa dalam peta

  2. Penggunaan bahasa dalam kelas

(previous language experience is not necessary)

- Activity sheets —
  1. How to make satay
  2. How to make a shadow puppet
  3. How to make batik
- Curriculum ideas —
  1. Indonesia — the challenges ahead
  2. Indonesian culture

ASIA WISE WORKBOOK No.1 **and a limited number of Issue 7, 1989,** ***INDONESIA*** **are available from** ***Asia Wise*****, 252 Argyle Street, Hobart, 7000.**

Australian Gamelan Society

The Australian Gamelan Society was formed in September 1987 by members of the University of Sydney Gamelan Ensemble, with a view to encourage and support the appreciation of *gamelan* music throughout Australia.

The Society is not itself a performing group, nor is it attached to any institution, or aligned with any political party or activities which may be seen to have a political thrust. It is an independent Association whose aims and objectives are in accord with the current educational objectives of making Australia Asia-literate. The Committee is comprised of individuals who are active in either teaching or learning *gamelan*.

Formation of the Society arose out of a perceived lack of communication and avenues for communication, both among the various *gamelan* groups in Australia and between *gamelan* performers and the general public. It was thought that such a society could address these problems by providing funds to support *gamelan* activities – such as teaching, performance, tuning of instruments. In addition it aimed to publish a newsletter which could serve both to network the various *gamelan* groups throughout the country, as well as reach a growing but scattered audience without having to have recourse to expensive media advertising.

The Society has always sought to represent *gamelan* activities Australia-wide. While activities in the early stages remained at a local level, principally in NSW, it has now called for nominees to its Committee from all states, and looks forward to working in close liaison with the various groups around Australia.

The Society intends to fulfill its aims by the following means:

- Encouraging performances, classes and lectures throughout the country.
- Encouraging communication between *gamelan* groups by facilitating joint projects involving several *gamelan* groups and via publications.
- Facilitating cultural exchange between Indonesia, Australia and other countries where *gamelan* is played.
- Publications — the AGS Bulletin, a bi-monthly publication provides information pertaining to performances, classes and lectures in *gamelan* and related arts throughout Australia.

Anyone interested in further information or details of membership are asked to contact the president

Richard Horsley
Box 5 Holme Building
University of Sydney
NSW 2006

Trade and tourism

1 Trade with Indonesia has increased steadily. Indonesia ranks 17th in importance as a buyer of Australian goods in 1988-89 and is ranked as Australia's 21st most importance source of imports in the same period.

Using the statistics below:

a) Rank the import and export commodities in order of value for each financial year.

b) Determine which commodities are increasing in export/import earnings and which are decreasing. Suggest reasons for such changes.

c) Prepare graphs and diagrams that depict aspects and trends of trade between Australia and Indonesia. Use these graphs to make predictions about trade between Indonesia and Australia.

Indonesia's leading exports to Australia ($'000)

	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
petroleum & products	180 288	418 370	206 358
textiles & related goods	20 457	35 849	43 181
coffee, tea, cocoa, spices	36 677	32 242	26 908
commodities & financial transactions	16 745	22 344	12 639
paper & paper products	4 092	11 688	7 561
cork & wood manufactures (excluding furniture)	6 239	9 437	17 082
miscellaneous manufactured articles	4 225	5 866	10 612
inorganic chemicals	3 490	5 094	4 543
non-metallic mineral manufactures	1 681	4 243	12 915
leather & leather goods	1 742	4 120	4 632
fish, crustaceans, molluscs & aquatic invertebrates	3 874	4 065	7 904
crude rubber	4 182	2 644	13 833
vegetable fats & oils	-	660	5 145
rubber manufactures	2 706	3 687	5 020
electical machinery, apparatus & appliances	1 792	3 360	4 591
furniture & furnishings	956	1 702	4 781

2 Balance of trade

Australia's balance of trade with Indonesia is in Australia's favour. Comment on the figures below and give possible reasons for the trends that are appearing. Take into account trends in export and import figures above.

	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
Value of imports from Indonesia	$310 556 000	587 674 000	418 948 000
Value of exports to Indonesia	$528 304 000	$595 281 000	748 310 000

Sources: ABS, *Foreign Trade Australia, Comparative and Summary Tables, 1988-89*
ABS, *1988 Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia*

d) Choose an export or import commodity and prepare a promotional campaign to increase sales.

Australia's leading exports to Indonesia ($'000)

	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
cereals	109 170	151 692	204 719
commodities & financial transactions	119 923	112 497	138 049
non-ferrous metals	72 156	75 126	97 581
coal & coke	38 006	43 299	33 327
textile fibres	19 610	21 557	41 015
specialised industrial machinery	12 522	20 028	21 624
iron & steel	25 169	18 768	11 454
petroleum & products	5 370	18 423	40 400
dairy products & eggs	18 450	12 833	14 423
general industrial machinery	4 592	10 652	8 401
professional & scientific instruments	2 444	9 780	4 468
live animals	6 453	2 997	8 913
feeding stuff for animals	4 396	3 907	4 648
inorganic chemicals	8 448	8 640	11 740
dyeing, tanning & colouring materials	2 276	4 525	5 496
plastics in primary form	5	-	13 080
manufactures of metals	16 717	8 056	11 406
telecommunications & sound equipment	311	443	4 833
transport equipment (excluding road vehicles)	4 170	7 293	8 860
photograhic, optical equipment; watches & clocks	5 451	8 724	5 469

3 Tourism statistics

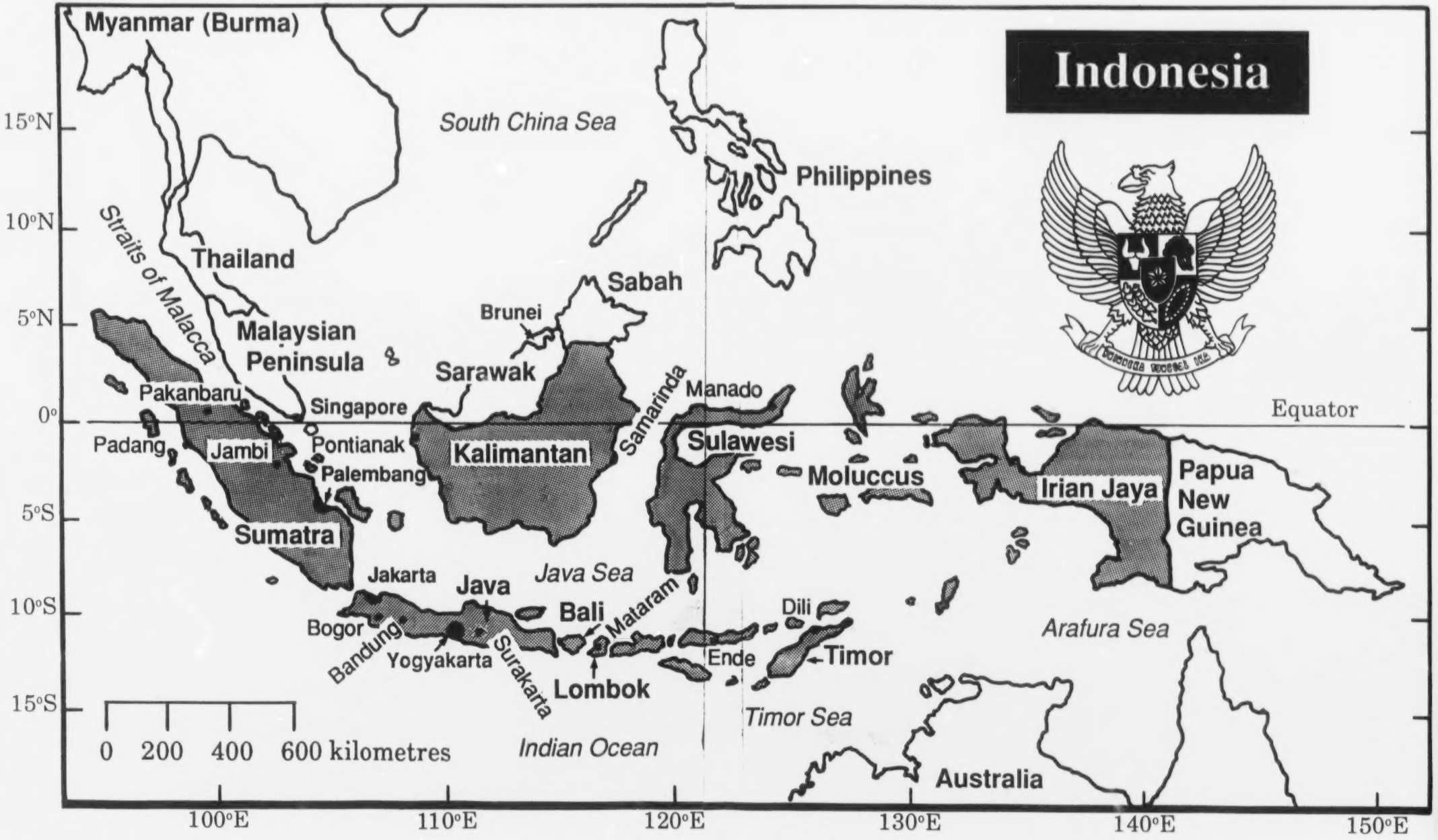
	1986	1987	1988
arrivals from Indonesia	17 700	21 500	29 600
total arrivals from Asia	349 500	470 900	660 300
departures of Australian residents to Indonesia	104 400	117 400	133 600
total departures of Australian residents to Asia	520 200	547 400	599 900

a) What reasons can you give for the relatively small number of tourist arrivals and large number of tourist departures between Australia and Indonesia, especially in comparison to the figures for Asia as a whole?

b) Calculate (i) the percentage of arrivals from Indonesia as a fraction of those from Asia, and
(ii) The percentage of Australian residents departing for Indonesia as a fraction of all residents departing to Asia.

c) Collect tourism materials about Indonesia. Include details of air links, attractions, accommodation, costs and visas.

Indonesia


Myanmar (Burma)
15°N
South China Sea
Philippines
10°N
Straits of Malacca
Thailand
Sabah
Brunei
5°N
Malaysian Peninsula
Sarawak
Pakanbaru
Singapore
Samarinda
Manado
0°
Equator
Padang
Jambi
Pontianak
Kalimantan
Sulawesi
Palembang
Moluccus
Irian Jaya
Papua New Guinea
5°S
Sumatra
Jakarta
Java
Java Sea
Bali
Mataram
Dili
10°S
Bogor
Bandung
Yogyakarta
Surakarta
Ende
Timor
Arafura Sea
Lombok
15°S
Timor Sea
0 200 400 600 kilometres
Indian Ocean
Australia
100°E
110°E
120°E
130°E
140°E
150°E

These reviews of books were prepared by Steve Tolbert, Asian Studies Consultant with the Tasmanian Department of Education and the Arts.

Two books by Dede Sujatna and published by Paradigm Press(School of Social Science), Curtin University of Technology.

Ramayana — A Reader in Bahasa Indonesian

(with exercises for Intermediate classes in Indonesian language), 151 pages.

This is an **excellent** book for all Intermediate students and practising teachers.

Its purpose is to introduce the renowned *Rama* and *Sita* story of love and righteous behaviour to foreign students of Indonesian. Also *Ramayana* is intended as supplementary material for students who are no longer stimulated by children's stories or unending grammar exercises, but who cannot grasp more comprehensive works. At the end of each *sembilan bagian* there are exercises to measure comprehension, grammar and nicely an awareness of Hinduist culture of Asia.

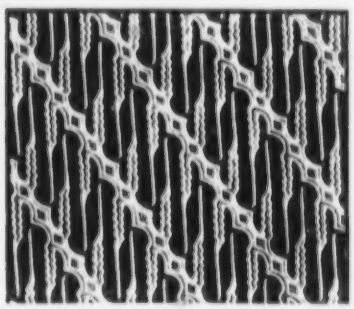
In order to avoid readers having to ceaselessly reach for a *Kamus lengkap*, more difficult words are followed by their English equivalents. An example from page 33 at the start of the story reads — '*Kerajaan Kosola yang subur terletak di tepi sungai Sarayu. Ibu kotanya bernama Ayodia. Kota itu besar dan banyak penduduknya.*

Kerajaan kosola diperintah (was ruled) *oleh seorang raja yang adil yang bernama Dasarata. Baginda* (his majesty) *dihormati oleh rakyatnya dan dianggap sederajat* (was regarded of equal status) *dengan Dewa Indra. Rakyat Kosala hidup dengan aman dan sejahtera* (prosperous).

Walaupun raja Dasarata sudah memerintah negaranya selema bertahuntahun, baginda tidak pernah merasa tenang (felt at ease) *karena baginda tidak berputra* (did not have any son). *Baginda mempunyai tiga orang istri, tetapi ketiga orang istrinya itu tidak ada yang berputra seorang pun'.*

At a price of around twelve dollars, the highly recommended ***Ramayana*** reader represents excellent value for the aspiring Indonesian linguist.

Cermin:
Indonesian Short Stories
Revised Edition
Dede Sujatna, Editor



Cermin —Indonesian Short Stories

The seven short stories in ***Cermin*** have both literary and historical significance. In time, they range from the Japanese occupation to the aftermath of the abortive 1965 coup. The story *Yang Sudah Hilang*, by the prominent Pamoedya Ananta Toer, might be considered the feature by Indonesian literary enthusiasts.

Stories are written in Intermediate Indonesian and are very instructive about Indonesian society and history and 'the problem of being human'. Comprehension and grammar exercises follow each story.

Cermin is suitable for teachers and capable matriculation students.

Seobiantoro, A and Ratnatunga, M, 1989, ***Folktales of Indonesia,*** MacMillan, 93 pages

In the book's introduction it notes that 'folktales in Indonesia do not belong to the past'. The truth of this statement is not lost on anyone who has recently spent time in the country. Love and knowledge of Mythology — through *wayang*, dance and television — forms an integral part of the present day Indonesian mind and to be familiar with their legends and fables is to take a big step to understanding them as a people.

Reading *Banyuwangi, Dewi Sri, Minangkabau* and *The Marriage of Arjuna* will provide a student/teacher with understanding about more important Indonesain beliefs. However, all the 28 tales are **informative**, **short** and **easy** to read.

These stories are a **must** for Indonesian classes in upper-primary — junior secondary range!

Pello J, 1980, ***Bahasa Indonesia — Lihat, Baca, Ceriterakan***
Lela Publications, PO Box 306, Laverton, Victoria, 3028.

This course book and tapes have been around for a long while but for the teacher who requires a 'no-frills' book to base their Indonesian course work around, Pello's publication is most suitable.

Pello, who has been an Indonesian language lecturer at Point Cook, has based his book on 36 graded units of work. Each unit has an integral picture; a passage that describes the picture; questions; oral work to re-test sections of the main passage, and a word list.

The book is accompanied by tape recordings of the 36 passages using native speakers' voices to improve the students' listening, comprehension and pronunciation. Importantly, the recordings begin very slowly and gradually increase in speed.

Almost all the passages can be incorporated into Stage 1 Indonesian syllabus. Six out of the first seven units directly deal with *Keluarga* and *Rumah Keluarga*.

A **good, solid, substantial course** for the person who might feel a bit nervous without a text to provide a core for their Indonesian teaching.

White, Ian, 1989, ***Bahasa Tetanggaku Stage 2***
Coursebook and Workbook, Longman Cheshire, Course book, $16.99, Student's workbook, $10.99, plus two tapes.

This book has just been released and Pam McCall at Don College, Tasmania — who comprehensively reviewed the Stage One Course — is currently preparing a review which will be published in a later issue of *Asia Wise*.

Like Stage One there are specific topics. *Di rumah; Di jalan lembang; Di rumah makan; Sakit; Di pasar; Libruran; Melihat-lihat di kota* feature in Stage Two. Grammar points are a bit more extensive whereas the number of vocabulary items are about the same. Cultural notes remain an important component in this book as in the first.

We look forward to Pam's comprehensive review.

Komplotan — a graded reader series for beginners of Indonesian, 1988, published by CIS Educational 245 Cardigan Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053, $9.95.

This is the first reader in the series of seven cartoon-strip readers.

The six short chapters of ***Komplotan*** all take place in a school classroom from *Hari Senin* to *Hari Selasa*. The language emphasis is on the use of greetings, classroom items and surroundings (such as *meja, jendela, pintu*); a few basic adjectives (such as *malu, kecil, tinggi, kuat*) and this book would generally provide an excellent supplement to the *Indonesian Stage 1* module on *School*.

The cartoon strip material is interesting and lively and in Komplotan's introduction it mentions:.
'From a practical point of view, these readers provide several benefits to the teacher.

They lend themselves to all those classroom uses to which readers, magazines or cartoons may be put: reading aloud, acting out, making audio or video tapes. They are ideal as supplementary material for thoses students who need extension work, freeing the teacher to give special attention to other students in the class. Each chapter is accompanied by written exercises giving students the opportunity for quiet reinforcement of language points they are studying in other parts of their course.'

All books in the ***Graded Reader Series for Beginners of Indonesian*** are **excellent** resources. Most importantly, they were written with student tastes and needs in mind.

For a comprehensive catalogue of books on Indonesian contact: **Dutch-Indonesian Bookshop**
72 Maroondah Highway or (03) 723 1195
Croydon VIC 3136

NATIONAL INDONESIAN LANGUAGE CURRICULUM PROJECT

A brief reminder of the purpose of the project

The National Indonesian Language Curriculum Project is a cooperative venture of the Northern Territory and South Australian Education Departments, managed by the NT, and funded largely by the Asian Studies Council. Over a three year period ending in June 1991 the project aims to develop a comprehensive T/K/R-12 Indonesian Curriculum based on the Australian Language levels (ALL) Guidelines.

The Curriculum will consist of a Teachers' Handbook, a set of Teachers' Stage Books, a series of Student Source books and a Resource Pack. The project, which employs a 4-person team (three in NT, one in South Australia), is under the control of the Management Group chaired by the Director of the Northern Territory's Curriculum and Assessment Branch.

All Australian education systems are involved through representation on a National Reference Group. The members of this Group are responsible for the operations of Local Reference Groups, consisting chiefly of teachers of Indonesian. Through participation in such groups teachers of the language are given the opportunity of evaluating draft Curriculum materials and contributing to the developmental phase of the Project. Consultants based in Australia and Indonesia provide guidance to the Project Team, and resource development is supported by Indonesia's Department of Education and Culture.

What's happening this year:

The first half of the project's life has been devoted to drafting syllabus documents and establishing a bank of teaching/learning resources. The following tasks will occupy the Project Team during 1990:

- completion of drafts of the Teachers' Books for stages B and 4;
- ongoing evaluation of the Teachers' Handbook and all Teachers' Stage Books by National and Local Reference Groups, consultants and Editors;
- drafting of Student Source Books;
- development of the Resource Pack (picture sets, audio and video tapes, reproducible sheets);
- development of the accelerated Syllabus framework for senior secondary learners (Stages 1-3);
- determination of procedures for formal trialling of the curriculum; and
- inservice for teachers to be involved in formal trialling of the curriculum.

People keep asking for [illegible]

To avoid disappointment to seekers after truth and Indonesian curricular materials, we do stress that the Project has a planned life of three years. That period is intended to enable the Project Team to develop syllabus documents and resources for the Asian Studies Council. The Council itself has the responsibility of publishing and distributing the Curriculum once final drafts have undergone formal trialling.

While recognising the urgent need of Indonesian teachers for support materials, we regret that the Project Team is not able to make available chunks or chips of its drafts or resources to anyone other than people directly involved in the Project (such as Management Group, Consultants, Reference Groups and trialling teachers). We hope that teachers will be patient for a while longer and that they find our product – once published– has been worth waiting for.

A word about video resources

A number of video programs are in the editing pipeline, and will be released as part of the Curriculum's Resource Pack. These include programs produced by Jakarta's Centre for Communications Technology and a 12-part series of short programs for primary school learners produced by the Project and the North Australian Film Corporation.

Several film companies have expressed interest in producing further programs dealing with Indonesian language and culture, and these are currently striving to obtain guidance and sponsorship. When approached, the Project has agreed to act in a limited advisory capacity in such initiatives, to ensure that any production which eventuates has a high degree of relevance to the new Indonesian Curriculum.

The Project believes it is very much in the interest of Indonesian teachers that such entrepreneurial initiatives succeed, and hopes that teachers and teacher organisations will seriously consider providing a response should they be asked by film production groups to outline needs or suggest educational focuses for programs.

Whom to talk to about the Project

Should you require further information about the Project, or wish to be involved in some way, you are invited to contact your system's representative on the Project's National Reference Group. They are:

ACT	Kathy Kiting (Teacher)	(062) 58 5555
NSW	Inara Merrick (PEO Curriculum)	(02) 261 72 93
NT	Carl Walker (Project Director)	(089) 89 7639
QLD	Kerry Fairbairn (PEO Lang Arts)	(07) 237 0883
SA	Janette Clonan (Policy Officer R-12)	(08) 337 6777
TAS	Philip Mahnken (Teacher)	(003) 44 4455
VIC	Ruben Ketchell (Senior Policy Officer, LOTE)	(03) 628 3463
WA	Gisela Birch (Consultant LOTE)	(09) 420 4759
Catholic ED	Anne O'Loughlin (Curric. Liaison Officer)	(062) 47 2606
Non-Gov't	Tony Mackay (Exec Director Indep't Assoc. Registered Teachers in Vic)	(03) 654 1200

Project Address — The Project Director, Indonesian Curriculum Project, NT Dept of Education, GPO Box 4821, Darwin, NT 0801 (Fax (089) 41 1120)

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The land on the roof of the world

Mention the word Himalaya and all manner of images spring to mind — depending on the sort of person you are. It might mean abominable snowmen, or intrepid mountaineers. It might mean images of mythical Shangri-la. It could be columns of gurkha soldiers or the Dalai Lama at prayer. It may be a shaggy Yak or possibly an adventure holiday. The Himalayas — Everest Asia on the roof of the world — carries with it images of mystery and often realities of hardship.

The region that we shall call 'Everest Asia' includes Nepal, Tibet, the northern-most parts of India, Bhutan and northern Pakistan. Geographically this region is quite unlike any other part of Asia and yet this ancient part of the world is very much a part of Asia.

Everest Asia has often been in the focus of the West. During the 19th century, Britain, as the world's major colonial power, was prominent in the region. Resistance to British rule was strong in parts of Everest Asia. Later contacts were along more peaceful lines. As home to the world's highest mountain peaks, the area drew adventurers like a magnet.

Sir Edmund Hillary, the New Zealand mountaineer, and Tenzing Norgay, his Nepalese guide, were the first to successfully climb Mount Everest in 1953. Since then there have been 214 successful expeditions to Everest. The mountain itself remains perhaps the single biggest image

Qantas

in the minds of people when they think of this part of the world.

Nepal, has the largest population of the Himalayan nations. It is a mainly mountainous country and is landlocked. However, despite the fact that six of the country's mountains are more than 8 000 metres high, Nepal is also home to tropical jungles which are no more than 180 metres above sea level.

Nepal is one of the poorest nations on earth, with high illiteracy rates, poor health care facilities and facing continual hardship from ecological problems stemming from soil erosion and deforestation. Although neighbouring Bhutan does not suffer the same pressure of population as Nepal, it fares little better. The northern-most parts of India share similar difficulties.

Tibet is the other major area in this part of Asia. Recent history saw China assume control of Tibet and condemned by many in the West as invaders. Despite protests and the departure of Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, Chinese rule remains.

The region faces prolonged economic difficulties. For an economy to be healthy it is necessary to earn large sums of money from exports. The only other way is to be relatively self-sufficient. In the case of Nepal, neither is the case. The majority of the 18.7 million people living in Nepal exist in conditions of acute poverty. Exports are low. The highly mountainous land offers little — not only from a lack of resources, but also because of inaccessibility.

Tourism is becoming a major source of foreign currency. As a harsh but beautiful place, the world of Everest Asia offers the tourist a challenge that many are taking. Each year more than 266 000 tourists pass through Nepal. In neighbouring Bhutan, the government is opting for high-priced tourism, catering to smaller numbers designed to both earn an income and preserve the cultural heritage of the country.

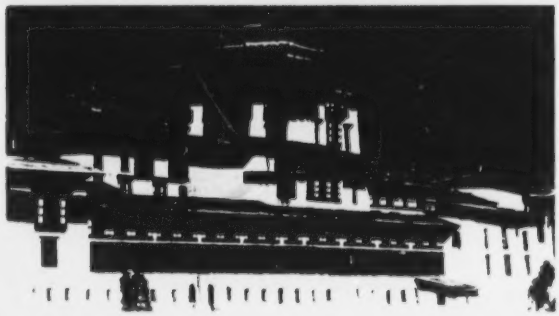
The future poses massive difficulties for governments and peoples alike. However, one thing which seems certain of remaining, is the romantic imagery that goes with the words Himalayas and Everest Asia — images of lamaseries set in the mountains, of mystery and adventure. Sadly other images will linger as well — images of poverty and hardship.

The land of the 'thunder dragon'

Bhutan is a tiny, landlocked country, high in the Himalayas. Its population of just 1.5 million live in a constitutional monarchy, with a representative democracy which has no political parties or trade unions. Although less than 10 percent of Bhutan's territory of 46 500sq km is capable of sustaining farming, some 90 percent of its people work in agriculture. Life expectancy is just 43 years and infant mortality is high.

This land, known as the land of the thunder dragon, is bordered by Nepal, Tibet and India. The ever-present mountains have acted to protect Bhutan from outside aggression. But they have also meant that communication even within the country itself has been very limited. Despite this isolation a strong cultural heritage grew up with lama-Buddhism as the central factor. Buddhism, like most faiths, has different sects. The brand of Buddhism of Bhutan, for instance is quite removed from that practised in Tibet. Bhutan's history, as a sovereign nation, dates back for several hundred years.

For centuries the religious and political centres in Bhutan have been the *Dzongs*, or monastic forts, mostly perched high above the valleys. A mix of Buddhist monastic life and secular authority combined to form Bhutan's special form of government. At the beginning of this century religious and secular authorities were separated and a hereditary kingdom was established. None of these changes really altered life for the people of Bhutan. Nor did the momentous changes taking place elsewhere. World wars came and went but life in this mountain kingdom was unaffected.



Dzongs like this have been political and religious centres in Bhutan for centuries. (Qantas)

The world did not catch up with Bhutan until the end of the 1950s when China incorporated Tibet into the People's Republic. Dramatic changes started to take place within Tibet. China and India later engaged in armed hostilities. Bhutan's leaders looked again at their policy of ignoring the rest of the world and decided that if Bhutan was to maintain its sovereignty and cultural identity, then it would have to become better known to the outside world.

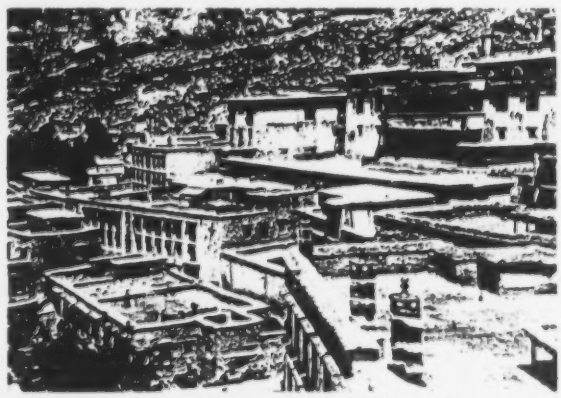
Since then the land of the thunder dragon has been slowly moving away from isolation while carefully keeping its distinctive culture intact.

The question of Tibet

The mention of the name Tibet inevitably brings to mind the question of China and whether or not Tibet is or should be part of the People's Republic of China. Without getting involved in this debate, it is appropriate to look at Tibet as separate from China in terms of an examination of Everest Asia.

The 'Tibetan question' refers to the incorporation of Tibet into China in 1950 and the calls from time to time for Tibetan independence. The history of Tibet since the 13th century has been linked with China, but despite this it has remained essentially 'Tibetan' in culture, religion and ethnic composition. There are, today, nearly four million Tibetans living in China. Many more live outside Tibet in virtual exile. Two major religious figures, the Dalai Lama and the Panchen Lama historically had their seats in Tibet. Today the Dalai Lama lives in exile, while the Panchen Lama's seat remains in Tibet.

The cultural heritage of the Tibetans is rich indeed and goes back for centuries. Tibetan scholars, generally lamaist monks, contributed widely to literature, religious writings, philosophy, medicine, architecture and the arts.



Drepung, once the largest monastry in the world

While Tibet is today a part of China the Tibetan language and culture have survived, as have a number of major festivals. Among these are Tibetan New Year in early February, the Sour Milk Drinking Festival and the Lamp Festival which celebrates the founder of Tibetan Buddhism's achieving the status of a Buddha.

Life in Tibet has been markedly different since incorporation. Their neighbours in Bhutan and to some extent Nepal, however, while developing along different lines share much of the culture that has come from their shared Himalayan home.

Nepal — sorting out 'shangri-la'

Nepal's best knownexport is quite probably the famous Gurkha soldiers who have served in the British army for decades. Despite the fact that the British had contact with Nepal from the 19th century, the world knew little of Nepal until relatively recently. It is set high in the Himalayan mountains – home of the world's tallest peaks.

Few people ventured into this part of the world. It was a land associated with mystery. A land, almost inaccessible and lost in the clouds, created in the imagination of writers scenes of lost paradise — of mythical Shangri-la. The few contacts with Western visitors did not help clarify things. Images of Lamaist monastries set in the highest peaks on earth served to add to the romantic image of this mountain world.

Historians have had more than their share of difficulty getting this country 'sorted out' as accurate and detailed information only goes back to the middle of the eighteenth century. At that time the country was ruled by Gurkha kings. It would seem that the fearless Gurkhas of British army fame are very similar to their ancestors as Nepal was not too wary about settling disputes on the battlefield. After having invaded Tibet and taking on the Manchu Dynasty in China they were forced to accept that they could not really be a world military power.

In a country where roads are few and transport difficult the ambulance system is set to improve.
(J. Henderson)

(J. Henderson)

Britain had begun to establish itself in India and Nepal's response was to send raiding parties into India on a fairly regular basis. Britain eventually declared war, forcing Nepal to surrender. There followed a prolonged period of good relations between Britain and Nepal under the reign of the Ranas who operated under hereditary prime ministership. During this period the Gurkha regiments in the British army were established.

The reign of the Ranas came to an end after rebellions in 1950. A democracy, of sorts, was finally instituted in 1959. However, it was not until 1980 that this *Panchayat* system of partyless government won the right to elect the prime minister from among the ranks of its members. Nepal erupted into violence this year as protests rocked the government of king Birendra, demanding fuller democratic rights and freedoms. The king finally accepted the demands amid much turmoil in Nepal. Added to this is a lengthy dispute with India.

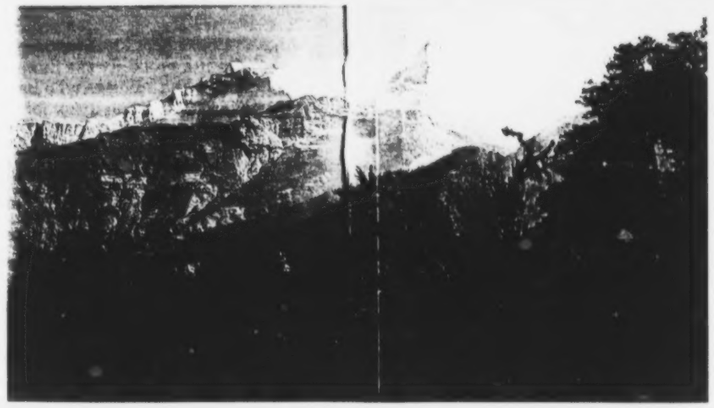
Nepal is a terribly impoverished nation. According to UN figures it is one of the 25 poorest countries in the world. Its population of some 18.7 million people is growing at a rate of 2.5 percent each year with income for the country very much stagnant. This means that the rate of impoverishment is growing steadily. To make conditions for this nation and its people even worse is the fact that natural resources are few. The mountain slopes of Nepal are an ecological disaster area. Fuel for cooking and heating has, due to a shortage of almost everything, been wood. Today much of the mountainsides are virtually denuded of any growth.

The country is just 240km wide and 800km long and is home to mountains soaring 8 000 metres above sea-level. Three main river systems (the Koshi, Gandaki and Karnali rivers) divide Nepal and it is in the valleys along the tributaries of these rivers that the majority of the population live. The people, like their neighbours in Bhutan and Tibet, are mostly engaged in agriculture although the land which is potentially farmland makes up just 10 percent of the land.

(J. Henderson)

The difficulties facing Nepal today are extreme. The way the country is to be governed is of an immediate concern, as is the critical question of how to overcome poverty. Equally pressing and of long term importance is how to overcome the environmental crisis which poses perhaps the most serious questions of all for the future of the country and the people of Nepal and the people of India and Bangladesh. Erosion in the Himalayas was a major factor in the floods which devastated Bangladesh in 1988.

Travelling to the top of the world



A common scene almost anywhere in the world these days is the tourist coach, laden with camera-wielding holidaymakers, intent on capturing on film the 'reality' of the places they visit. This picture is a common one in most parts of this country, and Australians, in turn, head off for exotic and far-away places. More and more people from all over the world are choosing Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet and other Himalayan spots to enjoy a more adventurous holiday.

Visitors to Everest Asia are, admittedly, fewer in number than to other spots on the tourist beat, but the volume is growing. With more tourists come more dollars — dollars that the economies of these states desperately need. There are also negative aspects to the growth in tourism. The region is in a state of near ecological ruin and the balance is easily upset. Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to climb Mt Everest has called for the closure of the mountain to all climbers for the next five years in order for the area to heal itself from over-exploitation. However, it would seem that short-term economic benefits will win out over ecological considerations as tourist authorities pave the way for big dividends.

Bhutan goes for quality not quantity

The kingdom of Bhutan, perched high in the Himalayas was once one of the world's most inaccessible countries. The prospects of getting tourists either in or out of the country were virtually nil.

For the citizens of Bhutan, things were just as difficult. Until 1961 the country had no roads and few houses had chimneys or glass windows. Bhutan's leaders walked across the mountains to go to school in India.

Things have changed since then and now roads link villages and 50 000 children attend local schools. Small tourist hotels have popped up and a national airline flies to four neighbouring countries. The government is luring tourists to Bhutan, but is keeping a careful limit on their numbers — hoping to raise needed finances from the tourist dollar while maintaining the traditional values of this Buddhist society.

Tourists in Bhutan are not very likely to bump into swarms of other tourists. There are generally no more than 100 visitors in the country at any one time and that is how the authorities want it to be. The planned numbers of visitors in a year will grow until an expected ceiling of 6 000 will be reached in 1996. Each pays about $300 per day which covers everything — accommodation, travel and food. Guides take a very personal interest in their charges and entertain them in their own homes, making tourism a personal affair and one that earns good money without damaging ancient cultural values.

The once secluded Tibet is today a growing tourist destination. By the standards of tourist meccas like Bali, the figures look pretty small, but the 44 000 people who visited Tibet last year was a record figure and is 29 times the number who flew in during 1980.

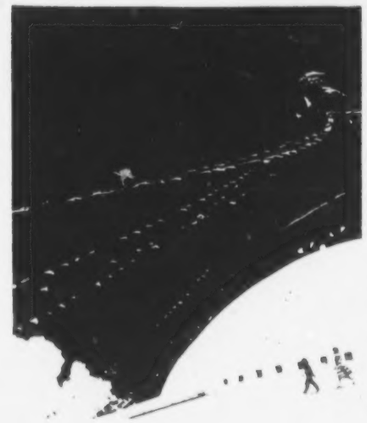
All tourists who fly into Tibet arrive on one of China's national airline (CAAC) flights. CAAC is the only means of flying to Lhasa, the capital of Tibet. The airline has been doing the Lhasa run for 22 years and has safely moved 1.4 million passengers and 30 000 tonnes of cargo, which is quite an achievement considering the difficulty of flying over such a precarious terrain.

Recent years have seen some controversy concerning Tibet and whether or not the Chinese are within their rights in maintaining control. Once the spiritual heartland of the spiritual and secular leader, the Dalai Lama, Tibet is still home to great temples and palaces. Among these is the *Potala* palace which was built in the seventh century as the home of the Dalai Lama and the *Sera* Monastry, once home to 5 000 monks.

The people of these mountainous regions, living on top of the world, face many difficulties now and for the future. Life has been hard and resources remain scarce. However the spiritual and cultural life of the people of Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet has remained rich. As they face an uncertain future they are asking and answering some rather tricky questions. For life to improve their economies must become strong. A strengthened economy means earning more foreign currency. Tourism is one way of doing this but how best to earn the dollars and keep the best of the old life and ways? The future alone will decide whether or not they have found the right answers.

Nepal's tourism training boom

The daughter of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar described Kathmandu as a 'marvellous Shangri-la' after completing a tour of the capital of Nepal. She was just one of an estimated 266 000 tourists who travel to Nepal each year.



The tourist, once out of the only international airport in the country, soon step back into another time. Cows, sacred to the Hindus, relax in the middle of the streets as the tourist vans weave their way past. Richly carved Hindu temples and Buddhist pagodas are all a part of the tourist route in the city which is growing more dependant on the tourist dollar for economic survival.

There are 20 000 Nepalis directly employed in the tourism industry but few of them have any formal training. At present the top tourist jobs go to Indians who have higher levels of skills. This is set to change and the United Nations Development Program is playing its part to ensure that more Nepalis take these jobs. In 1987 the Hotel Management and Tourism Training Centre commenced operations. It has already trained more than 450 Nepalis as tourist and trecking guides, hotel staff at all levels, travel agency workers and the trainers of future trainers.

The indication is that the tourist boom will continue in Nepal. As many as 350 000 visitors will come each year by the end of the century. This means that 7000 Nepalis will need to be trained quickly in order to meet the demand. Currently more than $60 million is raised each year from tourism and this is set to rise substantially as more international carriers include Nepal on their lists of destinations.

A fight for survival

Life in the Himalayan state of Nepal is a constant struggle against possible ecological disaster. Erosion, landslides, floods — all of these natural disasters wreak havoc on an already disadvantaged country. Blame is easily put on the life-styles of the Nepalis who, in order to find fuel for heating and cooking, cut the precious few trees that hold the soil in place. However, the people are not solely to blame and experts agree that the very geography of the place is the biggest factor in Nepal's tragedy.

J. Henderson

The Himalayas are not only the highest mountain chain in the world but the youngest. They are, in fact, still growing — at about 2cm a year. They are also constantly shifting in a sideways motion and this, naturally enough, means big trouble. Any development is a problem. It takes three times as long and costs three times as much to build a road in Nepal than in more stable areas. Even when finished it can be hit by earthquake, landslide or flashflood at any moment. Maintenance becomes terribly expensive.

Hillsides which have been terraced for rice growing may just collapse as the earth shifts. This creates a constant stream of internal refugees who head for the more stable *Terai* or Plains in the lowland areas along the border with India. Every year the floods are more damaging and more frequent. More and more forests are degraded or simply disappear. The population is soaring and poverty growing at an alarming rate.

Henry Stennett, a forestry officer with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) feels the population pressure in the Terai has reached saturation point. 'These ecological refugees come here with no money, no land and no prospects. To survive they burn off a patch of forest to grow rice. This reduces the Terai's own scant forest cover. You can't blame the displaced hill people. They, too, have to eat. Now though there is a real question and the question is how many people can you pack into the Terai without killing everything for everybody?'

An opinion which all the experts share is that the one thing Nepal needs above all else is trees. In the past 25 years, Nepal's once abundant forest cover has dropped from 6.5 million hectares to just 2.5 million. At the same time the loss of surface soil has been staggering. Soil is disappearing at the rate of 1.7 million tonnes a year. Nepal cannot afford such losses for much longer and neither can countries downstream which suffer serious flooding as a consequence.

This is why trees are so vital to the future. A FAO report shows that it will be necessary to plant 1.3 million hectares of trees by the year 2 000 just to supply the consumption needs of the population. A FAO project is responsible for supplying Chinese wood stoves that produce 40 percent more heat and use 40 percent less wood.

Last year the Nepali government announced a 'master plan' to save and rejuvenate their crippled forest resources. The plan is estimated to cost well over $2 billion and will take 22 years to come to fruition, with the government investing 10 percent of the necessary finance and international agencies supplying the rest. The scheme aims to overcome the timber deficit and to double the current production of wood for fuel to 15 million tonnes by the year 2010. The government is confident that it can succeed. It believes that any financial risks are minimal and the worst result would still mean the money invested would be easily recovered due to increased self-reliance and therefore less aid requirements. The plan was prepared by the Asian Development Bank and the Finnish Agency for International Development which is expected to help fund the project.

Western countries who have so far shown an interest in supporting the plan include Britain, Finland, Japan, Sweden, the United States, West Germany and Australia. Finding international agreement on almost any issue is difficult and there are differences of opinion over some points in Nepal's plan. But they all agree with the words of FAO forester Henry Stennett that the one thing Nepal needs more than trees is more trees if they are to heal the 'ecology of sorrow.'

J. Henderson

The path to enlightenment

Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam are the major beliefs among the people of Everest Asia. However, it is Buddhism, which we shall focus upon. Buddhism began as a breakaway from Hinduism. Its founder was Siddharta Gautama who was born in the village of Lumbini in Nepal about 563 BC.

Siddharta left his wealthy home and travelled as a monk, seeking to learn the secret of 'life and enlightenment'. Legend has it that after much hardship he resolved to sit under a sacred tree until he learned the secrets he sought. After 49 days he achieved understanding and became known as the Buddha or Enlightened One. Central to Buddhist teaching is that life is full of suffering, desire causes suffering, abandoning desire stops suffering and that essentially by doing good, avoiding evil and purifying your mind you will achieve peace.

Buddhism, in the centuries to follow, developed along different lines in different countries. An important aspect of Buddhism in Tibet is the figure of the *lama* who is the equivalent of a *guru* or teacher. The Dalai or 'All-Embracing' Lama is regarded as the reincarnation of Buddha and therefore a god-king. Upon the death of a Dalai Lama a search is made for a child born at that very moment. This child is regarded as the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama.

Tibetan Buddhism, or Lamaism is divided into a number of sects, with the *Gelug* or Yellow sect being by far the most dominant. This is the branch of Lamaism associated with the Dalai Lama. Following the Chinese revolution and the incorporation of Tibet into the People's Republic, the Dalai Lama fled into India for fear of persecution. The strength of Lamaism was seriously weakened in Tibet but even so there are today an estimated 20 000 lamas in Tibet.

Potola Palace near Lhasa (Qantas)

Nepal, however, being the birthplace of the Buddha, remains a holy place for Buddhists and naturally enough a stronghold of Lamaism. The actual place of the Buddha's birth, Lumbini, is one of four great places of pilgrimage for Buddhists. In neighbouring Bhutan, Buddhism became an administrative as well as religious feature. The imposing *dzongs* or forts perched high in the mountains were both monastries and government centres. This system continued until early in this century.
Life in this mountainous land is never easy. The Buddhist faith with its Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path leading to *Nirvana* and an end to suffering has offered much comfort to generations of Everest Asians.

Celebrating in Tibet

While Tibet is today officially a part of the People's Republic of China and therefore no longer a religious state, many of the ancient Tibetan festivals are still celebrated. Among these are:

The Tibetan New Year. This is the most important date in the Tibetan calendar. Each household make special offerings for good fortune;

The Monlam. This is held in Lhasa, the capital during the first month of the Tibetan calendar and is the largest festival in the year. Monks and lay people gather from all over Tibet to recite *sutras* or prayers and offer praise to Buddha;

The Lingka Festival. This takes place on the 15th day of the fifth month of the Tibetan year — the anniversary of reputed victory over paganism. People put on their best holiday dress and drink special buttered tea;

Sour milk drinking festival. This festival in the seventh month was once a purely religious occasion but now is a celebration of Tibetan opera;

Bumper harvest festival. During this festival, held in the eighth month, farmers, carrying statues of Buddha celebrate the coming harvest. It is a time of sporting events, wrestling, ox and horse racing; and

The lamp festival. This falls in the 12th month of the Tibetan year and celebrates the anniversary of the founder of Tibetan Buddhism's becoming a Buddha. Rows of butter lamps are lit on rooftops across Tibet.

Wildlife makes a comeback

It might take a bit of imagination to consider the inhospitable and rugged terrain of Everest Asia as being home to much in the way of wildlife, but then again any life in this mountainous world would have to be pretty wild to survive. However, a dizzying array of wild creatures — musk deer, Royal Bengal Tigers, Gharial crocodiles, Great one-horned rhinoceroses — all call the slopes of Nepal home.

The fact that their natural habitat is so wild does not mean that they are any safer from human predators than animals in Africa or even Australia. The musk deer, for instance, a native of Bhutan, Nepal and India is very much an endangered species. It is prized for the musk which is used in making perfume in the West and in traditional medicines in many Asian countries. As many as 54 000 Himalayan musk deer died in the first four months of last year to se[illegible] [illegible]ese [illegible]ket. The [illegible]d news is [illegible]at efforts are [illegible]nderway to save these beasts from eventual extinction.

Nepal is home to a growing number of national parks. The deer, for instance are most easily found in the Sagarmatha National Park — within sight of Mt Everest. The United Nations Development Program, the World Wildlife Fund and other groups have been active in the preservation of a number of species of animals in the region. The Royal Chitwan National Park, the Karnali Wildlife Reserve and Sukla Phanta wildlife Reserve are all centres for Operation tiger, where the tiger populations are being brought back from the brink of extinction. The same is the case with the rhinoceros population. In 1970 there were just 88 left but today after much care they number more than 450.

Another positive issue is the cooperation between China and Nepal to set up a national park around Mt Everest. This is a catchment area for many of Asia's river systems and home to some 3 000 species of plants, 400 types of birds and 25 species of mammals. Much has been done recently to save Everest Asia's animal populations and it is matched with the efforts to protect the regions ecological structure so that people and animals will have a more secure future.

Out of work warriors

The number of Nepal's famous Gurkha soldiers who have served in the British army since1815 is set to fall significantly, causing some concern in Nepal. Every year 200 recruits are taken into the army and the strained Nepali economy benefits by more than $50 million each year. Britain has, however, decided to cut the number of Gurhkas from the present 8 500 to about 4 000 in 10 years.

The first to be affected will be those stationed in Hong Kong. The regiment will be wound down as the colony prepares to return to China. Nepal plans to offer the redundant Ghurkas a place as border guards. Private security firms in Britain are recruiting former soldiers as guards on oil installations in the Persian Gulf. Whatever happens to these famous troops, the Nepali economy will suffer.

A cottage economy

Unemployment figures in Nepal doubled from seven to 15 percent in the last five years, which is causing major concerns for the government. As a result, a campaign has been launched to promote small scale industries which will, hopefully, draw more village women into the workforce.

The current plan which ends at the end of this year aims to see 7 500 cottage industries and small businesses open up in Nepal which will create 95 000 jobs. The plan is to both create many jobs and to earn vital foreign currency. At the top of the list of the cottage industry push are carpet making, silverware and ready to wear garments, which the government hope to be exporting in large quantities in the very near future.

So, keep an eye out for that hand-spun woollen garment made from pure Tibetan wool.

(M.Lahl)

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Everest — the 'other Asia'

An often forgotten or overlooked part of Asia is that region perched on the 'roof of the world.' The term 'Asia' carries with it certain images. These images are the ones given us by both the media and popular writings. Strong responses to the Asia of China or Japan, or the Asia of Indo-China spring readily to mind. To a lesser extent the mind may swing to India. But all too often the people and lands shrouded in the mists of the Himalayas simply do not leap into our awareness.
This area — we shall call it Everest Asia is, however, very much a part of Asia.

Indeed Everest Asia, which became an important regional centre of Buddhism — one of the world's major religions and one which played such a vital role in Asia, is central to an understanding of Asia as a whole. But, if thoughts of Asia do not readily include this part of the world, mere mention of the Himalayas or Everest brings forth a flood of colourful images. We all have some picture of Everest Asia — be it of lamas chanting *sutras*, of valiant mountaineers, gurkha soldiers or possibly of shangri-la.

There are other images of Everest Asia — images which are far from romantic. This is the Everest Asia of ecological nightmare. This is the Everest Asia of illiteracy and poverty. This is the Everest Asia desperately seeking solutions to these most pressing problems.

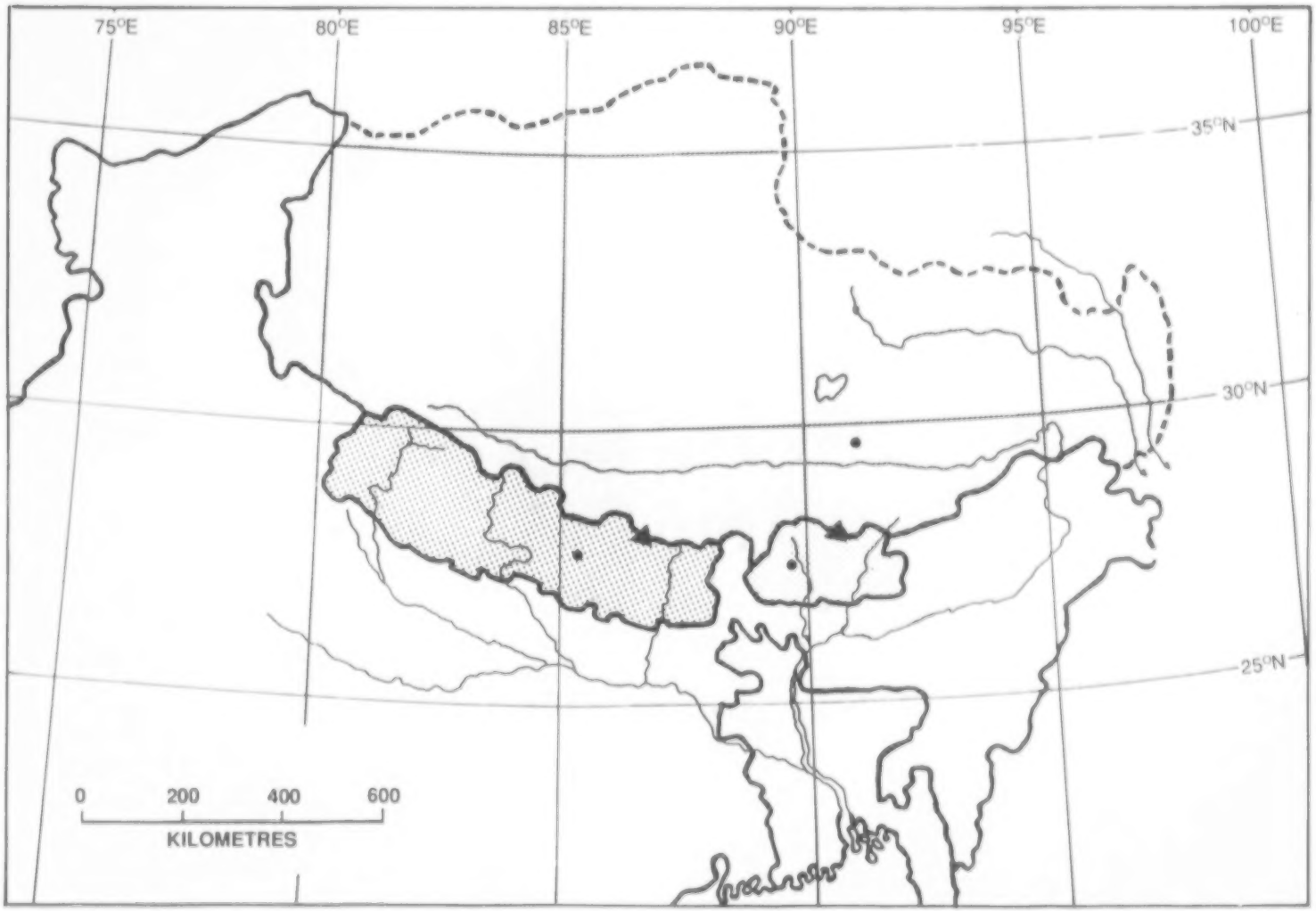
Nepal, central to our exploration of this region, is waging a relentless struggle against ecological disaster. We have all seen reportage of the results of massive deforestation on the mountain slopes and of the Nepali people foraging for wood for fuel to heat their homes and to cook their meals. The vicious cycle of cutting more wood leading to more soil loss leading to people moving on to more sustainable areas, already overcrowded and, in turn leading to a renewed deforestation is well known. The unfortunate trick geology has played on Nepal makes matters worse. The massive Himalayas are one of the youngest mountain chains in the world and are still in a process of growth. With this growth goes regular shifts in the earth. Simple tasks like building roads become major engineering feats. Flash floods, landslides and earthquakes can all reduce the road to rubble in seconds. The same applies to the terraces built into hillsides. There is a constant stream of internal refugees in this Himalayan country which adds extra pressure on the already crowded valleys and plains.

Added to these already daunting problems have come massive pro-democracy demonstrations which first rocked the government of King Birendra who many Nepalese regard as divine and forced him to make concessions to those seeking democratic freedoms.

Neighbouring Bhutan, a tiny and isolated state is similarly beset with problems. Lamaist Buddhism is strong in Bhutan and the country is seeking ways to develop a firmer economic base without disrupting the delicate cultural balance which exists. Bhutan was for generations ruled by a mix of the religious and secular with monastries acting both as centres for Buddhism and as administrative focal points. Today the government of Bhutan is paying great attention to development which maintains Bhutan's cultural heritage.

The issue of whether or not Tibet should be an independent state or remain a part of China continues to dominate many peoples thinking when it comes to questions of Everest Asia. The existence of the Dalai Lama's government in exile remains an embarrassment for China. Despite all this, the Tibetan people have maintained a strong cultural identity and their religious heritage is being maintained. This issue of *Asia Wise*, then, focuses primarily on these three Everest states and deals with questions of environment, culture and heritage of the people on the roof of the world.

Everest Asia



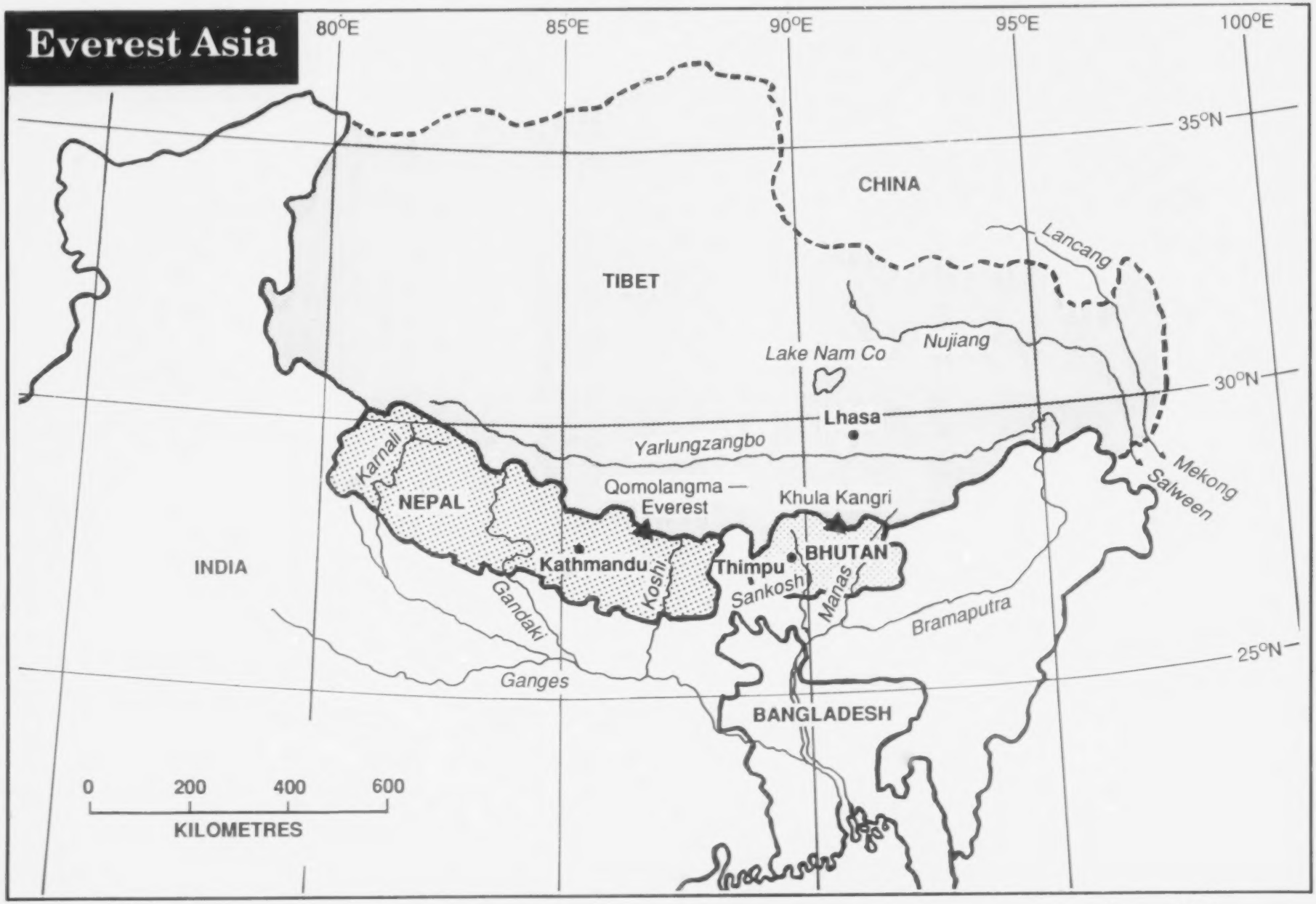
Mark these features on the map.

COUNTRIES
INDIA
NEPAL
BANGLADESH
BHUTAN
CHINA & TIBET

CITIES
KATHMANDU
LHASA
THIMPU

RIVERS & LAKES
KOSHI
GANDAKI
KARNALI
MANAS
SANKOSH
YARLUNGZANGBO
NUJIANG
LANCANG
LAKE NAM CO

MOUNTAINS
QOMOLANGMA — EVEREST
KHULA KANGRI


Everest Asia
80°E
85°E
90°E
95°E
100°E
35°N
30°N
25°N
CHINA
TIBET
Lancang
Nujiang
Lake Nam Co
Lhasa
Yarlungzangbo
Mekong
Salween
Karnali
NEPAL
Qomolangma — Everest
Khula Kangri
INDIA
Kathmandu
Koshi
Thimpu
BHUTAN
Sankosh
Manas
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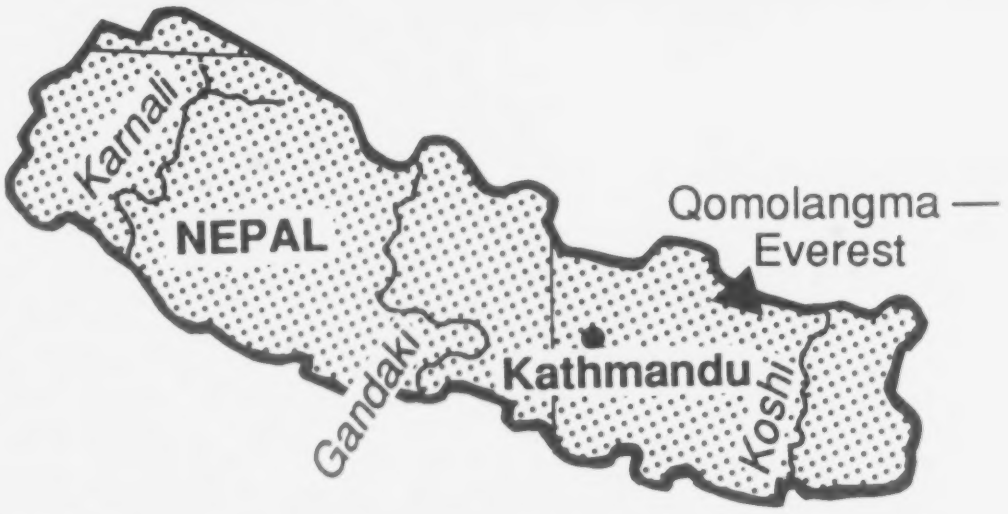
Bramaputra
Ganges
BANGLADESH
0
200
400
600
KILOMETRES

Nepal datafile



PHYSICAL FEATURES
Nepal is a predominately mountainous country 145km to 240km wide and approximately 800km long. Nepal is landlocked. The closest port, Calcutta, is 640km away. Nepal contains the world's highest mountains including Mt Everest which is on the border with Tibet. Six of Nepal's mountains rise over 8 000 metres and at the same time there are tropical jungles no more than 180 metres above sea level. There are three main river systems, the Koshi, Gandaki and Karnali Rivers. The population tends to concentrate in these valleys and in the Terai, a low lying strip of fertile land on the southern border. Indeed the Kathmandu Valley is one of the most densely populated areas in the world.

CLIMATE
The climate varies from tropical to arctic in nature. The foothills and valleys have a temperate climate with warm summers and cold winters while in the Terai temperatures are higher throughout the year. There are monsoonal rains from June to October.

LANGUAGE
The people are principally Indo-Nepalese although about one-fifth are of Tibetan origin. The official language is Nepali which is similar to Hindi and there are in addition 30 local languages and dialects.

RELIGION
The principal religions are Hinduism and Tibetan or Lamaist Buddhism.

CAPITAL
Kathmandu

HEAD OF STATE
King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev

PRIME MINISTER
Marich Man Singh Shrestha

CURRENCY
Rupee

AREA
147 100sq km

POPULATION STRUCTURE

TOTAL	18.2 million
UNDER 15	41%
BIRTH RATE /1000	39
INFANT MORTALITY /1000	197
LIFE EXPECTANCY	51 years
DEATH RATE /1000	15
ANNUAL GROWTH RATE	2.6%

WORKFORCE

TOTAL	7.5million
IN MANUFACTURING	n.a.%
IN AGRICULTURE, FISHING	92%
GNP PER CAPITA	$A200

MAJOR INDUSTRIES
cement, steel bars, cigarettes, jute, sugar, cotton textiles, biscuits, beer, synthetic textiles

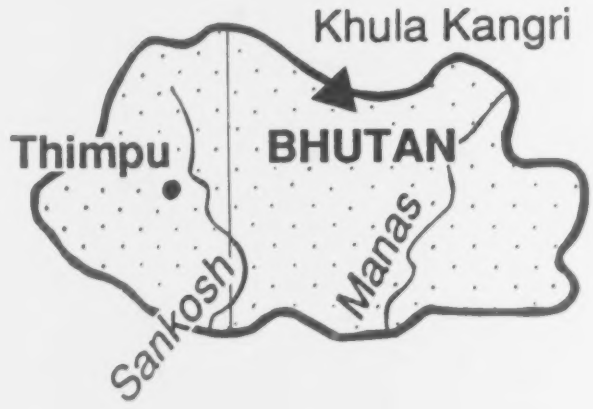
MAJOR AGRICULTURE
total food production 5.3million tonnes — paddy, maize, wheat, barley, millet, sugar cane, jute, potatoes; meat, fish

MAJOR IMPORTS
food & live animals, fuel & lubricants, crude & inedibles, chemicals & drugs, machinery & transport equipment, manufactured goods

MAJOR EXPORTS
food & live animals, crude material & inedible goods, miscellaneous manufactured materials

Sources: *Outline series*, Department of Foreign Affairs, *Asia 1990 Yearbook*, Far Eastern Economic Review, *The State of the World's Children 1990*, UNICEF

Bhutan datafile



PHYSICAL FEATURES
Bhutan is a predominately mountainous country 60km to 120km wide and approximately 300km long. Like Nepal, Bhutan is landlocked. The three main river systems, the Manas, Sankosh and Amo drain south to join the Brahmaputra.

CLIMATE
The climate varies considerably. Two examples are
Southern foothills — temperature range, 15°C minimum to 30°C maximum, rainfall 2 500-5 000mm, 85% humidity.
Paro, Thimpu — temperature range, -10°C minimum to 35°C maximum, rainfall 1 200-1 500mm, 40-50% humidity.

LANGUAGE
Dzongkha is promoted as a unifying national language. English is widely spoken.

RELIGION
The principal religions are Hinduism and Tibetan or Lamaist Buddhism.

CAPITAL
Thimpu

HEAD OF STATE & GOVERNMENT
King Jigme Singye Wangchuck

CURRENCY
Ngultrum

AREA
46 000sqkm

POPULATION STRUCTURE

TOTAL	1.5 million
UNDER 15	40%
BIRTH RATE /1000	38
INFANT MORTALITY /1000	197
LIFE EXPECTANCY	48 years
DEATH RATE /1000	17
ANNUAL GROWTH RATE	1.9%

WORKFORCE

TOTAL	65 000
IN MANUFACTURING	0.7%
IN AGRICULTURE, FISHING	93%
COMMERCE & SERVICES	3.6%
GNP PER CAPITA	$A175

MAJOR INDUSTRIES
cement, distillery products, minerals, veneer/plywood, gypsum, high-density polythene pipe

MAJOR AGRICULTURE
maize, rice, oranges, potatoes, wheat

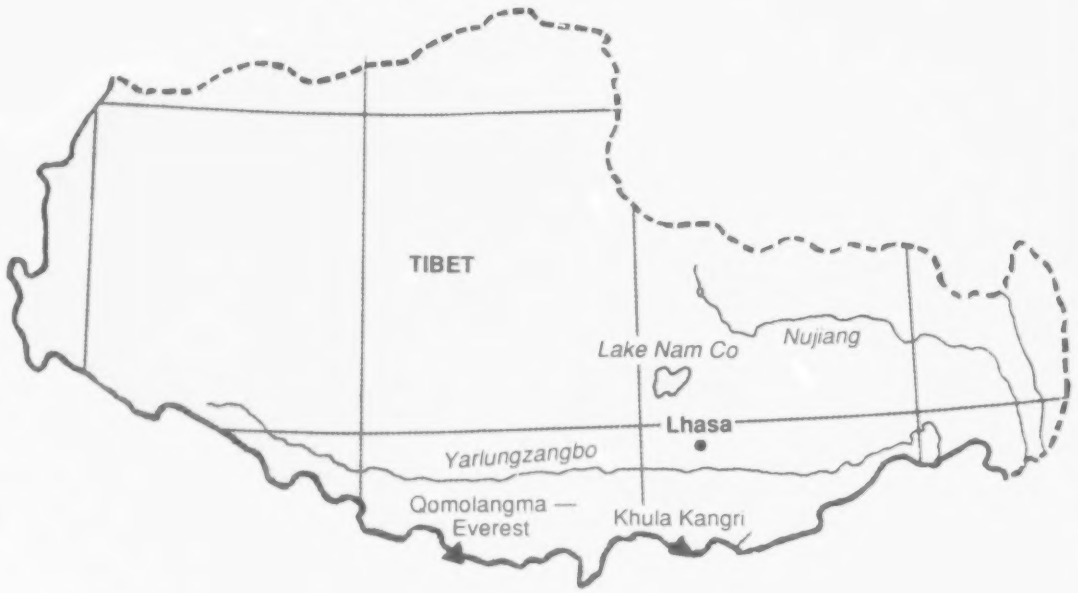
MAJOR IMPORTS
(from India only) rice, iron rods, diesel oil, tyres & tubes, truck chassis, machinery parts, petrol, fabrics, electricity

MAJOR EXPORTS
(to India only) cement, timber, block boards, cardamom, fruit products, potatoes, oranges, alcoholic beverages, rosin, apples

MAJOR MINING
dolomite, limestone, coal, gypsum, slate

Sources: *Outline series*, Department of Foreign Affairs, *Asia 1990 Yearbook*, Far Eastern Economic Review, *The State of the World's Children 1990*, UNICEF

Tibet datafile



PHYSICAL FEATURES
Tibet lies on the highest plateau in the world, the Qinghai-Tibet plateau.The plateau covers an area of 2.3million sq km, at an elevation of 4 000-5 000 metres. Mount Qomolangma (Everest) is 8 848m. Tibet has the highest large salt lake in the world, Lake Nam Co (4 718 metres above sea level). With its many pastures on the lake sides, in the intermontane valleys and on the gentle sunny slopes the plateau is a farming and pastoral area. Two major rivers drain this area, the Yarlungzangbo which flows south into India and Bangladesh where it is called the Brahmaputra and the Nujiang (Lujiang) which has great hydro-electric capacity. Another river with energy producing potential is the Lancang which is called the Mekong after flowing south out of China.

CLIMATE
The climate of the plateau differs greatly in the south and north. Because the monsoon comes from the ocean, the valleys of southern Tibet have a warm and humid climate. The weather is capricious in the central and Northern Tibet Plateaux which are cold and dry and covered with ice and snow for six months of the year. The temperatures range from a mean annual average of -2°C in the north to a much more temperate 8°C at Lhasa in the south.

LANGUAGE
The use of Tibetan in schools, universities and government is being actively encouraged. Chinese is also spoken.

RELIGION
Tibetan or Lamaist Buddhism.

CAPITAL
Lhasa

AREA
1.2million sq km

POPULATION
TOTAL (1986) 2 024 000

MAJOR INDUSTRIES
energy production, machinery, forestry, timber , woollen textiles, leather, food processing, paper, fertilisers

MAJOR AGRICULTURE
barley, wheat, peas, rapeseed, yaks, goats, sheep,medicinal musk, fritillary bulb, caterpillar fungus

MAJOR MINING
chromium, iron, copper, lead, zinc, borax, salt, mica, gypsum, coal

Sources: *100 questions about Tibet, China Handbook Series, Geography, Tibet transformed*

Everest Asia

Assignment sheet

1 SIZE and POSITION

The total area of Australia is 7 682 300sq km.

What percentage of Australia's size is the combined area of Everest Asia?

Using sources such as *Yearbook Australia*, rank in order of size Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet with the Australian states and territories.

Everest Asia is situated between approximately 26° N and 37°N. Australia is situated between approximately 10°S and 45°S.

Compare the relative position of Nepal Bhutan and Tibet in the Northern Hemisphere with Australia's position in the Southern Hemisphere.

Using a globe or an equal area projection trace around Everest Asia and Australia. Superimpose the cut out shape of Everest Asia on Australia taking particular care to match up lines of northern latitude with lines of southern latitude. Discuss the relative climate patterns of Everest Asia and Australia.

2 TOURISM

Tourism is a major contributor to the economies of Everest Asia. The number of visitors to each area in 1988 were:

Nepal	**266 000**
Bhutan	**2 197**
Tibet	**44 000**

Collect tourism brochures produced by companies that promote tourism to Everest Asia. Use these together with other visual material to mount a display on the area.

Discuss or debate the possible impact of tourism initiatives in Everest Asia and their potential positive and negative influences on the area's physical, social and cultural environments.

In groups plan Everest Asian holiday activities for different consumer requirements:
— a package for a travel group;
— young adventurers on a limited budget; and
— a family group.
Include details of airlinks, attractions, accommodation, costs, internal travel, shopping and visas.

3 CONQUERING EVEREST

Who is the man in the photograph and why is he famous?

Prepare a display, booklet or poster depicting the exploits of this person and his companions.

Find out about others that have completed similar expeditions.

Research other 'firsts' in the world. Include events such as first to the South Pole, first in space, first to circumnavigate the world, first to sail solo around the world.

Discuss the possiblities for 'firsts' in the future.

Materials review

The books reviewed are published in China. For more information about these and other publications contact
Embassy of the People's Republic of China, 247 Federal Highway Watson ACT 2602

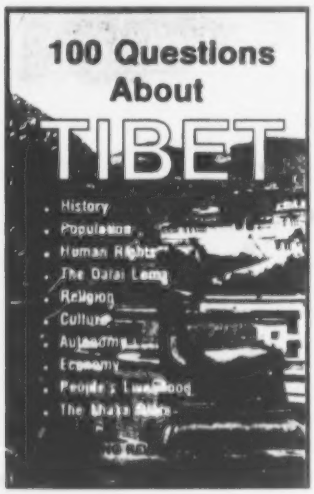
Tibet Transformed

Epstein, I, 1983, Tibet Transformed, New World Press, 566 pages

Tibet Transformed first appeared in print in 1983 and is the result of observations made by Israel Epstein who visited the region three times — in 1945, 1963 and again in 1976. The author was born in Poland but grew up in China and after working in the United States returned to China in 1951 to join the magazine *China Reconstructs*.

The book sets out to explain, from the Chinese perspective, the history of Tibet, its links with China and to trace the development of modern Tibet. Written from a very partisan approach, this book will annoy those who consider that Tibet is an occupied territory. However, it remains a valid work in that the historical overview of Tibet shows the difficulties faced by the people. He shows, also, the recent developments of the Tibetan Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China as it is now known.

Tibet Transformed is available from the Chinese Embassy as are a wide range of books and booklets on contemporary Chinese economics, history and culture.



100 questions about Tibet

Published by Beijing Review Publications, 1989, 117 pages

This book aims, through a question-and-answer format, to give an understanding, from the Chinese point of view, of the recent history in Tibet.

The book's 100 questions are divided thematically into 10 sections which include the history of Tibet, human rights questions, population, culture and education, religious belief, economic development, how the people live and work, the riots in Lhasa and the attitude of the Chinese government towards the Dalai Lama.

Research for this publication has been drawn largely from government sources and scholars of Tibetan history at the Nationalities Institute which is part of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

This publication is most interesting and highly informative. There is an obvious bias, but it remains a worthwhile publication and resource in connection with Tibet and Tibetan affairs.

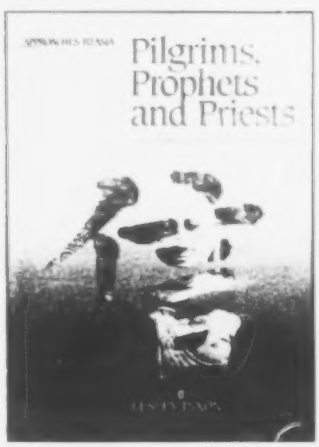
Dixon, I, 1984, ***Pilgrims, Prophets and Priests,*** Oxford University Press, $12.95

Pilgrims, Prophets and Priests — Asian religions and philosophies, is the first in a series of topic books designed for students of Asian studies or Asian history from the middle to upper secondary level.

The book is a most useful resource as it provides a clear and concise introduction to the major religions and philosophies practised in Asia today. Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism, Shinto, Confucianism, Taoism and Islam are all dealt with in such a way as to give the reader a general introduction. The history, literature, customs and sects of each faith are also described.

The book is well illustrated and each section includes a range of questions for research and review. As the beliefs and cultural backgrounds of Asia are unfamiliar to many Australians, a glossary carefully explains concepts and terms which may otherwise pose difficulties for the reader.

This book is a valuable resource for both teachers and students and should stimulate further inquiry into Asia and its relationship with the West.



ISSUE SIX 1990

TEACHERS'

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Japan facing the future

Japan today is central to Australia's thinking and economic well being. It is a major trading partner and by far the leading economic power in the region. The growth of Japan's economy since the end of the Second World War has been staggering. Contacts are growing in all areas but Australia and Japan have not always enjoyed a close relationship. The period of the war still carries bitter memories for some Australians and for some our growing relationship is still an area of concern.

Younger Australians, when considering Japan, may well see a high-tech Western society, while older Australians may see a more traditional, ordered society. Both views are correct. Japan is a blend of cultures and, in many ways, of two ages.

The major influence on Japan in its early history was China. Japan owes much to these influences including its written script, Buddhism, Confucianism, as well as architecture and the arts. In the 13th century, China, after conquering Korea, attempted an invasion of Japan but without success. Portugese traders and Jesuit priests arrived 300 years later bringing Christianity. The Dutch followed and for the next 80 years there was regular contact with the West. The Japanese later expelled the foreigners and began a period of isolation from the West which was not broken until 1853 with the arrival of American Commodore Perry.

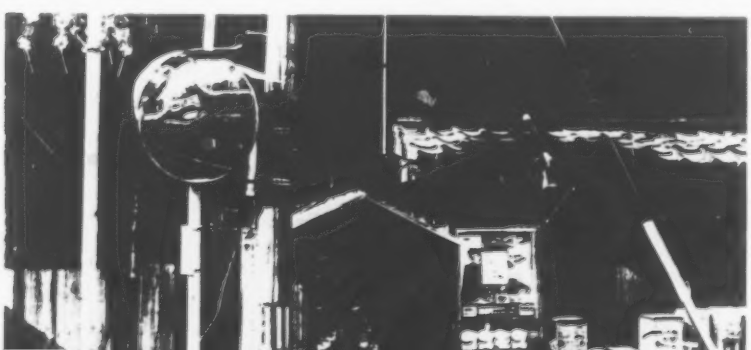
Japan began opening up to the world. The product of this modernisation was a wide range of benefits including industrialisation, a spread of education and improved health care. A negative side came in the form of a rising militarisation which lead eventually to Japan's wars of conquest and to its role in the Second World War.

Since the end of the war Japan has adopted a low profile in world affairs, concentrating rather on building its economy to the force that it is today. The last 45 years have seen dramatic changes take place in Japanese society. Japan and particularly younger Japanese have adopted a very Western approach. A result of the economic growth of the country has been the rise of a well-to-do middle class which is highly educated and which has high expectations. It has also meant high stress levels for millions as they struggle to simply keep up in this most bustling of societies.

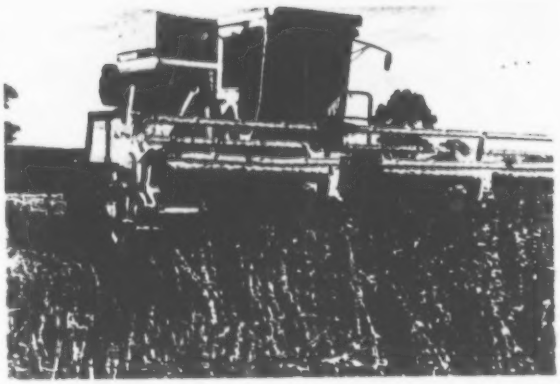
For older Japanese their country must be a puzzle. While Japan was engaged in a process of modernising from the middle of the last century, there was always a strong traditional element running through society. Today this traditional commitment to order and obedience to country and employer remains strong but many are questioning things which have been basic for centuries. The result is something of a mix as Japan develops a new identity which may well see a merging of the old and the new.

The Japanese economy which has been on an almost continual upturn for the past 45 years has brought major changes. Living standards have risen but with this has gone the negative aspects of high stress levels and competition which many find crippling. Japan has been criticised for the way it has devoured so much of the earth's resources in its industrial rise. The economic 'miracle' of Japan has carried with it many problems which must be resolved.

Japan, as a regional leader is facing problems — social, economic and ecological. Japan leads the way in the development of technology. One view is that the development of more advanced technology has caused many of the problems facing Japan. Another is that by using its technology it will be able to overcome



The secret is out



The word buckwheat would probably not create an awful lot of excitement for you but for the average Japanese consumer to talk buckwheat is to talk food. The Japanese have been making buckwheat noodles by hand for the past 400 years and eating them for, well, 400 years.

The best of these soba noodles are made from buckwheat flour which is no more than six months old. This could pose difficulties as the crop cannot be grown in Japan's winter months and so they have sought countries in the southern hemisphere which are suitable suppliers. It was discovered that high quality buckwheat could be grown in Tasmania.

The Japanese market demands quality grain, free of any pesticides or herbicides, and so Mr Riichoro Shiratori, a flour miller from Japan got down to business. After trialling the crop for three years, 40 hectares were planted for commercial use. The next year 160 hectares were planted and this year 250 hectares of buckwheat have been sown.

Earlier this year Mr Shiratori brought a dozen of his best clients — restauranteurs and chefs — to Tasmania to see the crop and to talk with the growers. They were more than satisfied and business looks set to boom.

Buckwheat is still something of a mystery for most Australians. While here with his group of clients, the Japanese miller set up the opportunity for about 300 Tasmanians to sample the noodles. The results seem to indicate that the secret flour may not be a secret for long.

High-tech shopping machines

It is probably a safe bet to assume that if you can fit it in a machine or force it to slide down a chute then the Japanese are selling it in a vending machine. We think of vending machines and our imagination goes only so far, but Japanese producers obviously have very rich imaginations. Bibles, rice, jewelry, sake, magazines, ice-cream — the list goes on and on and gets bigger as the days go by.

The machines are today very much a fact of life for Tokyo's millions of busy citizens. People are now so used to these machines that they trust them not to simply gobble up a fist-full of yen notes leaving the customer sadder and poorer. The vending machine revolution has gone a step further with the introduction of pre-paid magnetic cash cards. The consumer buys a card and each time it is slipped into the machine and a purchase is made the value of the item is deducted from the card.

So, whether it is a packet of sparklers for a party, drinks in 10 different sized containers or an expensive jumper, the customer is able to simply slip a card into a machine. Of course there are a few drawbacks. You don't get to talk to anybody along the way but then the idea is selling and talk, as we all know, is cheap.

Banking business

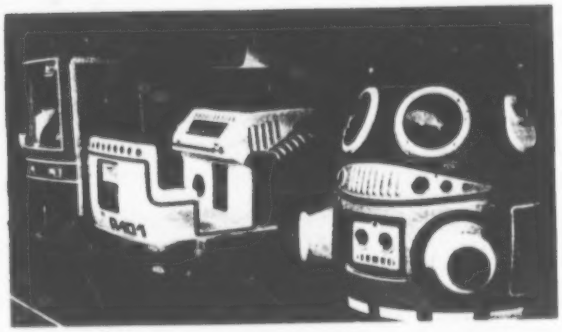
Once upon a time going to the bank was a rather sober and careful operation. The staff worked quietly and the customers either withdrew money or deposited it quietly. It was all rather serious. Today it is more colourful with video displays of bank services, advertising for that holiday of a lifetime from the loan that is yours for the asking and all the rest. Japanese banks have taken things a step further in a bid to attract customers.

Competition is fierce in Japanese banks. The Sanyo bank recently came up with the idea of giving customers a can of tomato juice when they came in. Smiling bank tellers hand over the juice while taking your cash or fixing the withdrawal. The bank seemed happy enough with the result and have adopted the red can label as its symbol. Some 100 000 bank customers must have been a little puzzled when their can of tomato juice arrived in the mail, but the competitive nature of Japanese business means getting ahead of the competition.

If it looks good — sell it

A society like Japan which seems so totally geared to consumerism can pose some major problems. With a middle class enjoying high degrees of spending power, the market soon becomes saturated. How do you sell things to people who already have one of almost everything? The answer is — package it differently.

The latest boom area to get into in Japan is the field of design. Big Japanese companies employ large numbers of designers. Sharp for example employs 200 designers. This may sound a lot but Sharp launches 2 000 new products each year which works out at about one product design per month for each designer. The secret of success in Japan, whether you want to sell a motor car or a pencil sharpener, is presentation and quality. More spending power has meant that only top quality will do.



(C. Forsyth)

Say it with flowers

Japan is a country of ancient traditions and of rapidly advancing Western tastes. It is the country which gave the world the classical art of flower arranging or *Ikebana*. Flowers for the Japanese have always had a very special place. It is little wonder, therefore, that flowers are big business these days in Japan.

In fact the market for cut flowers in Japan is now worth more than $8 billion a year. The Japanese are becoming big spending givers of flowers which is something of a departure from the old days of each home producing delicate displays of simple arrangements. Young consumers who are enjoying the wealth the booming Japanese economy has brought them have taken to the idea of giving bouquets of often expensive flowers for just about any occasion — from birthdays, wedding anniversaries, hospital visits, social calls, births or any other reason which springs to mind.

Florists are doing a roaring trade. Orders from just one delivery service jumped from 500 000 to over a million in the past five years. Traditional blooms like white chrysanthemums which have been used for centuries as funeral wreaths and to represent the imperial throne are still popular but more exotic foreign flowers are making a big impact. Orchids have become big winners and the big price tags have not frightened off the Japanese consumers. There is a growing market in importing flowers. Australia, last year, exported nearly $6 million worth of cut flowers to Japan as part of about $100 million worth of imports overall.

(S. Pearce)

There's money on the moon

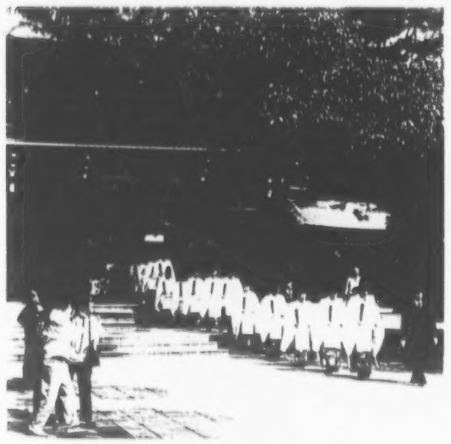
Japan has set its sites high as it prepares its space program for moon exploration. The foyer of Japan's Tsukuba Space Centre, however, does not feature models of its latest rocket or of joint Japan-US projects, but rather an artist's view of a 21st century moon base.

As well as the base itself, with solar panels for powering it, are plans for moon buggies — one of which is involved in open cut mining of rock and soil which would be transformed into goods on the moon itself before being exported back to earth.

While the national space agency NASDA is thinking ahead, so too are business interests, who can see big business and big profits to be had from the moon 'quarry'.

A major Japanese construction firm, Shimizu Corporation, created its own space project office in 1987. Its executives are getting ready for the day when people head for the stars. They see a time when humans are sent into space on a permanent basis and are ready to provide buildings and workplaces for them. They believe that it will be possible for them to do the construction work on the moon itself. Analysis of soil and rocks show aluminium, oxygen and calcium is present.

The only ingredient missing for making concrete is hydrogen which they would ship to the moon in order to erect homes and factories — for a price. Shimizu and other companies on earth are preparing the way to make big profits from the moon, but they say nothing of mining for green cheese.



Religion in Japan

Two faiths are predominant in Japan — *Buddhism* and the uniquely Japanese religion of *Shintoism*. The Japanese, however, tend to regard religion as a way of living rather than a set of rigidly held beliefs. Today less than a third of all Japanese describe themselves as having strong religious faith but Shintoism has shaped Japanese cultural development and still have much influence.

It is accepted that Shintoism developed from animism which sees all things — trees, rocks, mountains as well as people and animals having souls or spirits. These spirits are called *kami*. The name of Shintoism is Japanese is *kami-no-Michi* or the 'way of the gods'. Shinto is thought to have developed more than 2 000 years ago although it has no founder, sacred books and little organisation. Later in Japanese history the emperors were elevated to the status of gods and were considered to be descendents of the Sun-goddess. This idea was only finally ended at the end of the Second World War.

Shintoists worship the kami at shrines that are very simple. They are usually wooden and consist of one room raised above the ground. Shinto shrines can be found all across Japan. In earlier periods the shrines were communal centres and had recreation centres around them where *sumo* wrestling and *no* theatre was performed. The act of worship is simple indeed. The believers simply wash their hands and faces, enter in silence and clap their hands to attract the kami's attention, bow and make an offering.

There are ten basic rules which shintoists try to observe. These are to not go against the will of the gods, to not forget your obligations to your ancestors, to not disobey the rules of the state, to not forget the goodness of the gods, to not forget that the world is one great family, to not forget your own limitations, to not become angry, to not be lazy in your business, to not bring blame to the teaching and to not get carried away by foreign teachings.

Ceremony in Japan

Ritual and ceremony are important parts of traditional Japanese cultural life — from the highly ritualised tea ceremony to the classical Japanese *No* theatre.

The tea ceremony

The tea ceremony or *chanoyu* goes back to the 12th century when it was introduced to Japan by Zen Buddhist monks and has taken on an important role in the artistic life of the country. It is both simple and beautiful — two virtues highly praised by the Japanese. Eitiquette or highly structured manners are a basic part of the ceremony. The host will serve *guokuru* which is powdered green tea which is placed in a bowl and whipped to a froth with a tiny whisk. The bowl is taken in the right hand and laid on the palm of the left hand. You then bow twice — once to the tea master and then to the Buddha. The most beautiful side of the bowl is turned away. After sipping noisily you wipe the part your lips have touched with your thumb and index finger. After eating the sweet cake you then rotate the bowl in order to admire its beauty.

A CULTURE BASED ON BEAUTY

The Japan that Westerners know is, today, a curious blend of ancient and modern. Japan is among the world's leading economic powers and central to Australia in terms of a trading partner. We have images — strong images of this industrialised giant which is more Western than the West in so many regards. It is also home to an ancient culture. The Japan which was first sighted by Portugese traders who stumbled upon the country in 1542 was a far cry from the modern nation which has emerged in this century and yet the age old cultures and traditions remain strong, making Japan a source of fascination for the West. This cultural heritage developed over many centuries. To begin to understand Japan we need to look at the cultural heritage of Japan.

Tradition and ritual play an important part in all Japanese cultural pursuits, whether it be the art forms of painting, dance, the highly stylised theatre forms of *No* or *Kabuki* or *Bonsai* — that most Japanese of artistic endeavours which sees the miniaturisation of plants and trees. Beauty and delicacy are important to Japanese culture. Perhaps the art of *Ikebana*, however, captures this need for beauty best.

Ikebana

The history of the art of Ikebana or flower arranging is uncertain but it became prominent in the 15th century at about the same time as the tea ceremony. While there are some 20 different styles or schools of Ikebana in Japan they all share one common idea. That is that each arrangement represents *ten-chi-jin* or heaven-earth-man. These arrangements feature an upward branch meaning heaven, while branches on the right indicate man and lower branches on the left are the earth. Ikebana displays are essentially simple and very different to most floral displays seen in the West. Many Japanese display Ikebana work in their homes.

Another time honoured tradional art in Japan is that of calligraphy. This art of writing again goes back for many centuries.

Calligraphy

In about the 5th century Chinese writing was brought into Japan. Calligraphy took on great importance in Japan with the coming of Buddhism. A young monk who wished to rise to importance, had to become skilled in both poetry and calligraphy.

There are three essential elements in Japanese calligraphy. The first are the *sumi* or stick ink which is soot collected from oil lamps and the *suzuri* or inkstone which is made from black slate. The sumi is rubbed with water on this inkstone. The final piece of equipment is the *fude* or brush. The bristles come from mountain sheep, horse, badger and deer. Today mass produced calligraphy equipment is common but the traditional methods are still very much in use.

Even though Japan is, today, a highly developed, industrialised nation and the significance of the old ways and old traditions is less obvious there are still many dates which are held as important. There are 12 national holidays in Japan but on top of these there are some 50 other festivals that are observed each year.

Festivals

Asia Wise, in issue 10 1989 dealt in some detail with specific children's festivals in Japan. During the months of July and August a number of festivals take place across the country. One of the greatest of these is the *Tanabata* festival which falls on 7 July and between 6-8 August at Sendai city. It is a remembrance of two lovers — a princess and a farm boy who were not allowed to see each other except on one day of the year. The two are represented by the stars Vega and Altair whose paths cross on this date. Banners and streamers with love poems are strung across the streets. The Sendai festival sees people from all around the country come for the spectacle. Other festivals taking place during these months include the hugely popular and important *O-Bon* festival — a Buddhist celebration of the coming to earth of all departed ancestors and the *Kangensai* or Music festival in mid-July. Decorated sacred boats are sailed through the gates of the famous temple at Hiroshima while classical and sacred dances are performed on them.

A little patch of green

The popular image of Japan is that of a highly urbanised and industrial society — a sort of huge city. This image comes from our understanding of the modern economic giant that is Japan. We see on our news reports from Japan the modern urban settings and hear, repeatedly, of the cost of land in cities like Tokyo. We learn of the crowded cities and often hear of little else.

However, Japan has large areas of land which have been untouched. For instance 67 percent of the total land mass of Japan is under forest cover and logging of Japan's extensive forest areas is strictly limited. At the same time environmental protection is at times sadly unknown. It remains a fact though that Japan is mostly an urban society with some 77 percent of the total population living in large towns or cities. While this figure seems high it must be remembered that in Australia this figure stands at 86 percent.

(S. Barnes)

Japan is a small nation in terms of actual land and has a high population density of 324 people for every square kilometre of land. The Japanese value their green areas extremely highly because of this. This is no new thing. Much of Japan's rich cultural heritage surrounds its beautiful natural environment. One essential feature of the uniquely Japanese religion of Shintoism is that the environment has a spirit and as a result must be treated with great respect and care.

There are other, more immediate reasons for the Japanese to take such care for their natural environment. This relates to the stress and pace of life in such an urbanised, industrial society. To be able to 'escape' into forest or simply to the calm of gardens becomes more important when your nerves are worn from life in a very fast lane. This calming effect of the countryside is, however, not always possible and so, the busy Japanese with plenty of money at hand are, more and more, buying time in artificial bird sanctuaries or at a simulated sea-side where soothing sounds can be played through headphones in order to relieve the stress of the late 20th century.

(C. Forsyth)

Reacting to the environment

While the post-war history of Japan has been one of staggering economic development, its record on environmental issues, both at home and abroad, has left much to be desired. Serious environmental problems face Japan today.

Its appetite for timber has been vast. Enormous areas of tropical rainforest in South-East Asia have been eaten up to provide Japan with the wood it needs. Each year 750 000 hectares of tropical rainforest in Sarawak are logged for use by Japan. For years Japan ignored international critics but more recently the Japanese have been showing some indications that they are beginning to take some notice. Japan is hoping to improve logging methods which will assist in the farming of the forests.

Some rather interesting proposals have been discussed but many experts are saying that the forests will have been virtually destroyed before these proposals can be put into place. The country is the world's largest importer of wood, importing 15 million cubic metres of timber each year. More than 20 billion sets of disposable wooden chopsticks are thrown away every year.

On a more promising note, the government has promised to devote nearly $3 million of its overseas development aid in the next three years to protecting the environment. There are strong arguments, however, that this figure is too little considering the destruction of rainforests which has gone with Japan's rise as an industrial power. Just how Japan reacts to its critics will have a major impact on how the environment copes in the next century.

There is little doubt in the minds of people the world over that the single biggest problem facing the planet now and for the future is that of the environment. Japan, as a leading economic and industrial giant, has been soundly criticised for its disregard for things environmental, but there seems to be positive signs coming from Japan. The possibilities for a country as advanced as Japan to make a dramatic impact on the environmental issue are very real as the technology which Japan has developed can also be used to solve some of the world's problems.

The Japanese have already shown a capacity to respond to these issues. For instance in the 1970s when the price of oil rose to record levels, they reacted by introducing technology which cut the energy needed in the refrigeration industry by up to 60 percent. The threat to the ozone layer is a question which is being given some consideration at the moment in Japan and business interests are taking very careful notice. Three companies who are major producers of Chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs have already developed substitutes which will not harm the ozone layer.

The government, for its part, has been less ready to accept that there is really any problem. It was one of very few countries which refused to cooperate with the international community over proposed reduction of production of CFCs. A contradiction in their attitude is that they are spending a large amount of money to set up an Industrial Technology Research Institute on the Global Environment. It is to work on ways of developing substitutes for CFCs and to find ways of turning carbon dioxide into useful industrial products.

One plan on the Institute's books is to set up a photosynthesis facility in which water, solar energy and carbon dioxide react to produce oxygen, sugars and proteins. These will then be used to produce synthetic foods, dyes and perfumes. Photosynthesisis is the process by which plants absorb energy from sunlight.

Many would maintain that the problems facing the planet at present are a direct result of the way technology has been misused and that, in order to create more 'efficient' ways of exploiting the earth's natural resources, the ecological system has been damaged to the point of destruction. If

(S Barnes)

technology can be used to repair some of the damage then it would seem only fitting that the more developed nations lead the way.

Japan's critics, however, are quick to point out that even as the scientists prepare ways out of the mess, the Japanese are still among the most energetic users of the earth's resources and are still creating havoc with the environment of much of the world. The situation is made worse in that there is no 'green' voice with any real influence in Japan. Both major political parties ignore their own environment and pay little attention to the criticisms of the rest of the world.

Japan and the 'wall of death'

The Japanese have won few friends among South Pacific island nations lately for steadfastly refusing to cooperate over the question of drift netting. The 'wall of death' as these nets have been called have a devastating effect on fish-life. The nets are finely meshed and virtually invisible in the water. They often extend for 50km and catch not only the Albacore tuna which the Japanese, South Korean and Taiwanese fishing boats are after, but turtles, dolphins, birds and anything else which is unfortunate enough to become entangled.

The system has been in place for just over two years and experts predict that the seas will soon be depleted of tuna and other sea animals if the overkill continues. Last year more than 30 000 tonnes of tuna were caught by this method and it is doubted that stocks can recover unless the fishing is halted.

To make matters worse there are hundreds of kilometres of drift nets which are loose and drift upon the ocean currents, indiscriminantly killing thousands of fish. Environmentalists are demanding that countries like Japan stop this form of fishing as soon there will be no tuna and possibly few other species in the areas they now fish.

The cost of getting ahead

It is well known that in Japan the secret of success is getting the right education. The education system is highly competitive and parents are prepared to pay to give their children that competitive edge.

Children are often enrolled in special private 'cramming' academies called *jukus* which pump children full of necessary learning and the discipline to help them survive the coming educational onslaught. These jukus can cost parents up to $2 600 a year. They are designed for students aged from seven years and up, but there are now jukus for children as young as three years old.

(C. Forsyth)

Educational costs are skyrocketing in Japan. Latest figures show that a family can expect to have to pay $82 000 on tuition, room and board to get a college degree and up to $103 000 for a science diploma. School expenses eat up 25 percent of a family budget — at least for those who can afford the costs of sending their children to university. The charges for education are rising rapidly, placing considerable strains on the family budget. Surveys have shown that the average income for the family of a Tokyo university student is $63 000 a year, which is placing a higher education out of the reach of a great many Japanese.

A miracle material

Time and time again the Japanese have proven to be rather inventive and innovative. A recent breakthrough in Japanese technology shows that they are far from losing the knack of turning their minds to new answers to problems.

The particular problem was how to develop material for sportswear which would save budding athletes from spending too much on keeping their training gear clean. Running, leaping and jumping about the place tends to make the athlete perspire and so, the Asahi Chemical Industry and Asahikasei Textiles set to work to develop cloth that makes exercise less sweaty. And yes they came up with the answer.

The new miracle cloth is made from a product which comes from shellfish. A key part of the new material is chitin, the tough substance which makes up the hard shells of shellfish. The scientists combined this with synthetic polyurethane to create a cloth which is both waterproof and able to absorb large amounts of moisture. The end result is, of course, that the athlete, after a hard day running, jumping and standing still won't have to rush home to put the tracksuit in the wash.

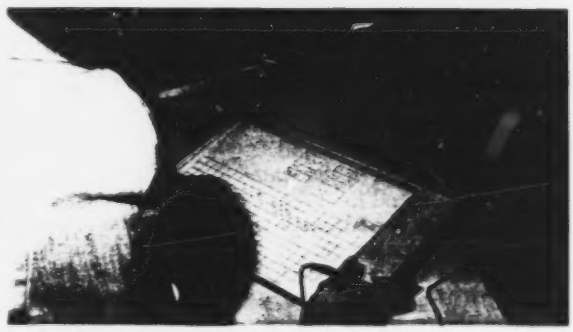
Finding the right word

Language is always a drawback for peoples of different nations to get together for business or pleasure. Japanese is not the easiest language to get your tongue around. While a great many Japanese are learning foreign languages and many more Australians are now learning Japanese, the communication barrier is one that still poses difficulties.

The Japanese company, Fujitsu, has been busy trying to overcome this barrier. If you stop to think about some of the different needs of business, or just how to pass the time of day, then it is clear that simply setting out with a pocket English-Japanese dictionary is not quite enough. One area which the company was looking to make easier was the business of translating technical manuals. They thought they had the problem solved with a computerised translating machine but it didn't always get the meaning quite right. Another company has produced a little gem that allows the user to simply pass a translating bar over the desired word or phrase and hey presto there is the translated version on a screen.

With international relations growing in importance and with the business world more closely linked, such devices, as they become more skillful, will make life a lot easier than thumbing through the dictionary every time you get stuck for the right word. However, the best approach would still be learning the language yourself.

(S.Barnes)



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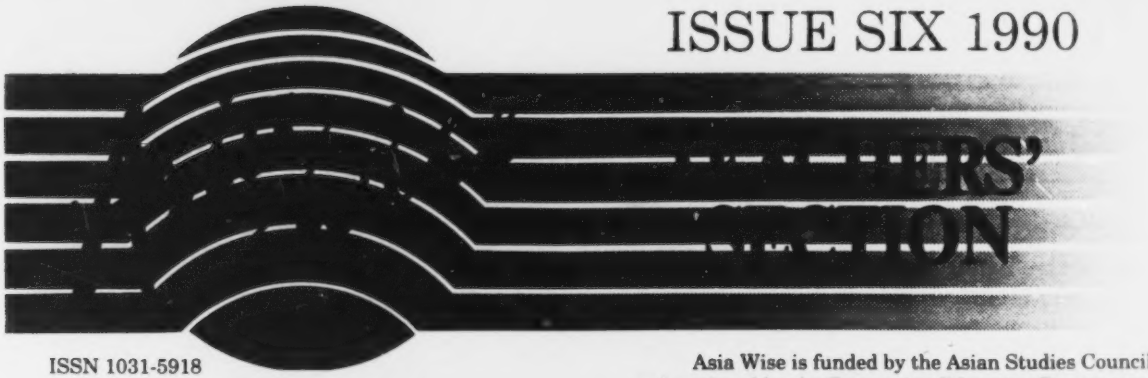

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Japan: facing the future — preserving the past

This issue of Asia Wise takes a look at both the Japan of the late 20th century and the more traditional Japan that xists alongside this economic giant. It looks at questions of the environment and the positive and negative issues arising from that question as Japan faces its future without forgetting its past.

Australia's relationship with Japan has changed in recent years. This is obvious. The view people have of Japan often depends on their age. The Japan of the 1990s is the epitome of the high-tech, high pressure, urbanised society. The growth of this 'new Japan' has been most pronounced since the end of the Second World War, but the process of modernisation really dates from the time of Commodore Perry's entry into the country in 1853 and the end of centuries of isolation.

The capitalist 'miracle' that is Japan has created a very wealthy that is a leading force in the world today. Recent reports would indicate that this economy is not quite as solid as it has been and is not divorced from the occasional jitters which affect all Western economies. The economic boom of the past decades has also created many contradictions and difficulties for a society that is still in many ways dominated by strong traditional influences. This more traditional society is the Japan which other older Australians may bring to mind when considering 'Japan' in an abstract manner. Still others may bring images of a militaristic, expansionist Japan of the 1930s and 1940s. Strong views on Japan abound, depending on 'which' Japan the observer chooses to look at.

Japan's history and geography have combined to make the modern nation. The islands of Japan attracted the attention of Kublai Khan who attempted to invade in the late 13th century but his armada did not succeed. However, the continual contacts between Japan and both China and Korea from about the 2nd century on went to shape the cultural identity which became Japan. Japan was influenced strongly by China and almost every aspect of Japanese society and culture has its roots in China. Following Portugese and Dutch contacts the Japanese sought to introduce a policy of strict isolation from the West. It was not until the middle of the 19th century that Japan was virtually forced to accept that the Western world was a fact of life. Their response was to begin a modernisation campaign that took on different forms as the decades rolled by but which is, essentially, still going on.

This modernisation was, of course, not always peaceful as the Second World War shows. The past 45 years have seen Japan adopt a low profile in world affairs but steadily assuming the status of a major power in economic matters. The adoption of things Western has been an inescapable by-product of this march into the world of the West. However, centuries of tradition, custom and ritual do not simply disappear. Japan's culture is rich indeed and exists today side by side with the pressurised society of 1990 Japan.

This enormously urbanised high-speed culture and the culture of ancient Japan are not the only paradoxes in Japanese society today. The education system — one of the most competitive in the world — is designed to equip young Japanese to cope with and manage the society they will inherit. Many are now questioning the validity of such a proposition. It is a rigidly structured and often authoritarian education system that many see as maintaining a status quo of subservience to Japanese traditions that may be out of place with the Japan that has developed since the war.

The economic machine that is Japan is widely criticised for what is described as its disregard for the environment of the world. At the same time the natural beauty of Japan is held in the highest regard and remains an oasis in the desert of development which many see as urban Japan.

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Contact Asia Wise, 252 Argyle Street, HOBART, 7000 for back issues of Asia Wise and copies of current *Asia Wise* publications.

National K-12 Japanese Language Curriculum Project

The project has produced draft materials for the primary Stages A and B and the secondary Stages 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. These materials have been commented on by teachers from all states of Australia, and some teachers especially in Queensland and Western Australia have been involved in developing programs of work from Stages B and 1 of the syllabus documents for use with classes.

The writing teams are scheduled to complete final drafts of the syllabus guidelines and support materials by the end of this year, in preparation for in-servicing and more intensive trialling in 1991, and possible publication before the 1991 school year.

What is being produced

The main outcomes of this project, will be:

1. Japanese Syllabus Guidelines

These will serve as a national reference point for the teaching of Japanese in Australia. The guidelines are intended to be of assistance to state systems, curriculum developers, school administrators and teachers. The guidelines will be detailed and informative yet sufficiently flexible to be able to be adapted to the needs of each state.

The guidelines will contain:

- a rationale for teaching Japanese;
- optimum conditions for learning Japanese, eg time allocation, entry points, etc;
- a summary of language content for the various stages of learning;
- statements on language proficiency, assessment and key aspects of Japanese teaching eg scripts, pronunciation, methods and strategies; and
- information about support resource materials.

2. Syllabus materials

The guidelines will be supported by stage related exemplary syllabuses which indicate how the guidelines might be interpreted by various systems and states. These syllabuses are roughly equivalent to three blocks of schooling — Primary, Lower Secondary, and Upper Secondary. Each stage syllabus is organised into a number of modules. Each module will contain language objectives given in terms of macro-skills (ie, listening, speaking, reading and writing) and language content.

The syllabus objectives are achieved through suggested language activities which emphasise 'purposeful' use of Japanese in a variety of settings and situations. To support users of the modules (ie, teachers who are adapting the modules for their school or state situation, textbook or resource writers, etc) information will be supplied in each module.

These will include:

- language functions;
- language exponents (ie, suggested patterns and suggested vocabulary); and
- other information (eg socio-cultural points) relevant to the module, etc.

In order to show how the modules can be further developed for classroom use, key modules will be fully exemplified by 'units of work'.

3. Resource Materials

The third component is a set of general resources designed to support the syllabus modules. Given that teachers (and state systems) will want to adapt the focus of particular modules, the resources are designed to be able to be used flexibly.

Resources currently being prepared include:

- activity worksheeets;
- cultural activity cards;
- stimulus pictures;
- 'authentic' letters; and
- audio cassette materials.

In addition to the materials being prepared for the primary and secondary 'blocks', an additional package is being developed in the form of an accelerated course for upper secondary students (who have no prior Japanese language experience.)

For general enquiries about the project please feel free to contact the project writers below.

Perth

Pam Moss (09) 420 4818
Peter Williams (09 420 4714
Fax 09 420 5005
Curriculum Programs Branch
Ministry of Education
151 Royal Street
East Perth WA 6004

Brisbane

Peter Grainger (07) 237 0892
Bronwyn Dewar (07) 237 0895
Fax (07) 229 0265
Floor 8 Education House
Department of Education
30 Mary Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

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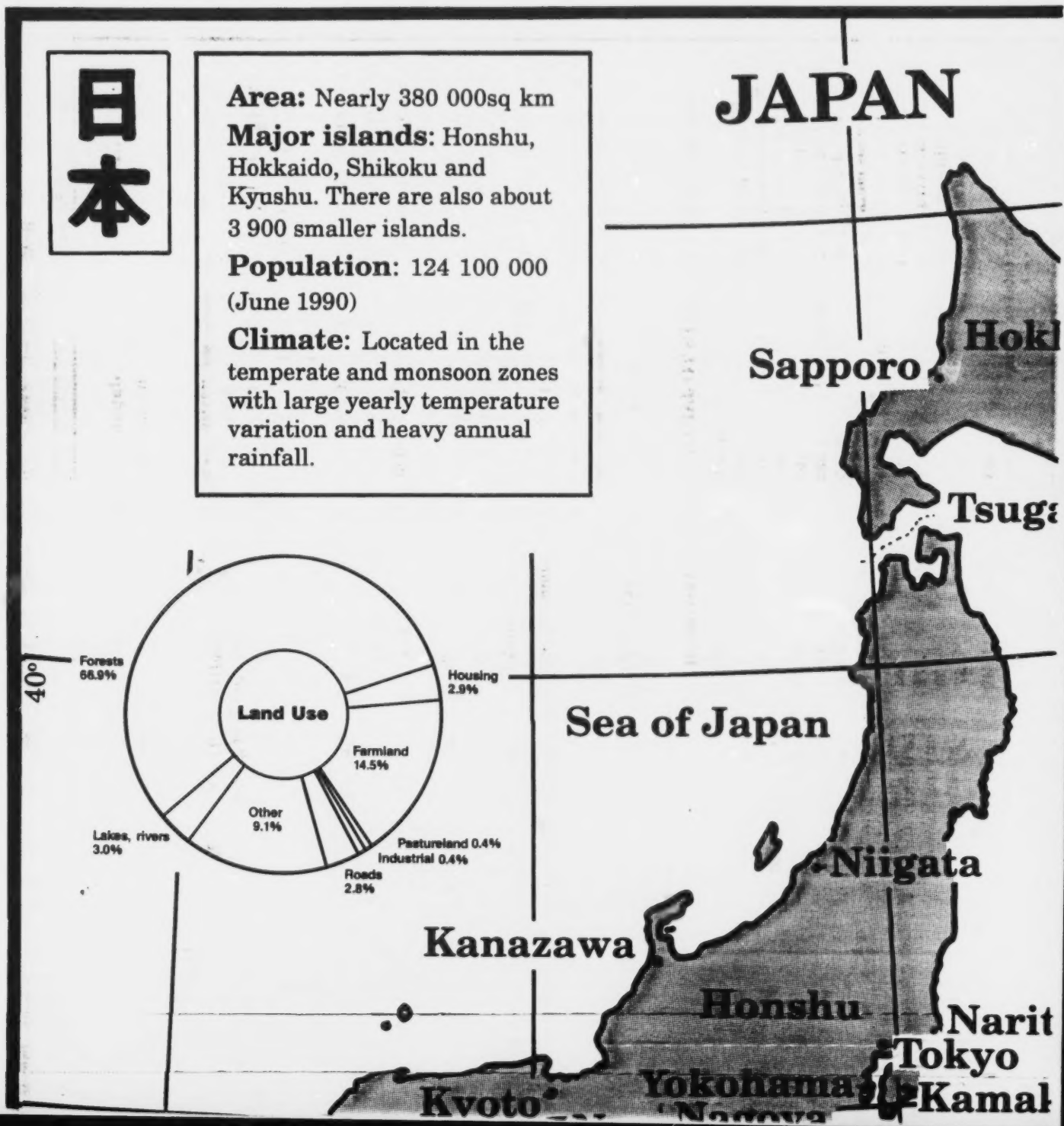

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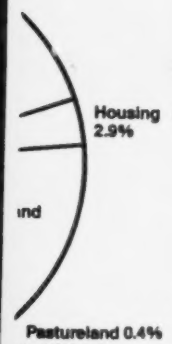


JAPAN

JAPAN

45°

Hokkaido

Sapporo

Tsugaru Strait

40°

Sea of Japan

Niigata

Kanazawa

Honshu

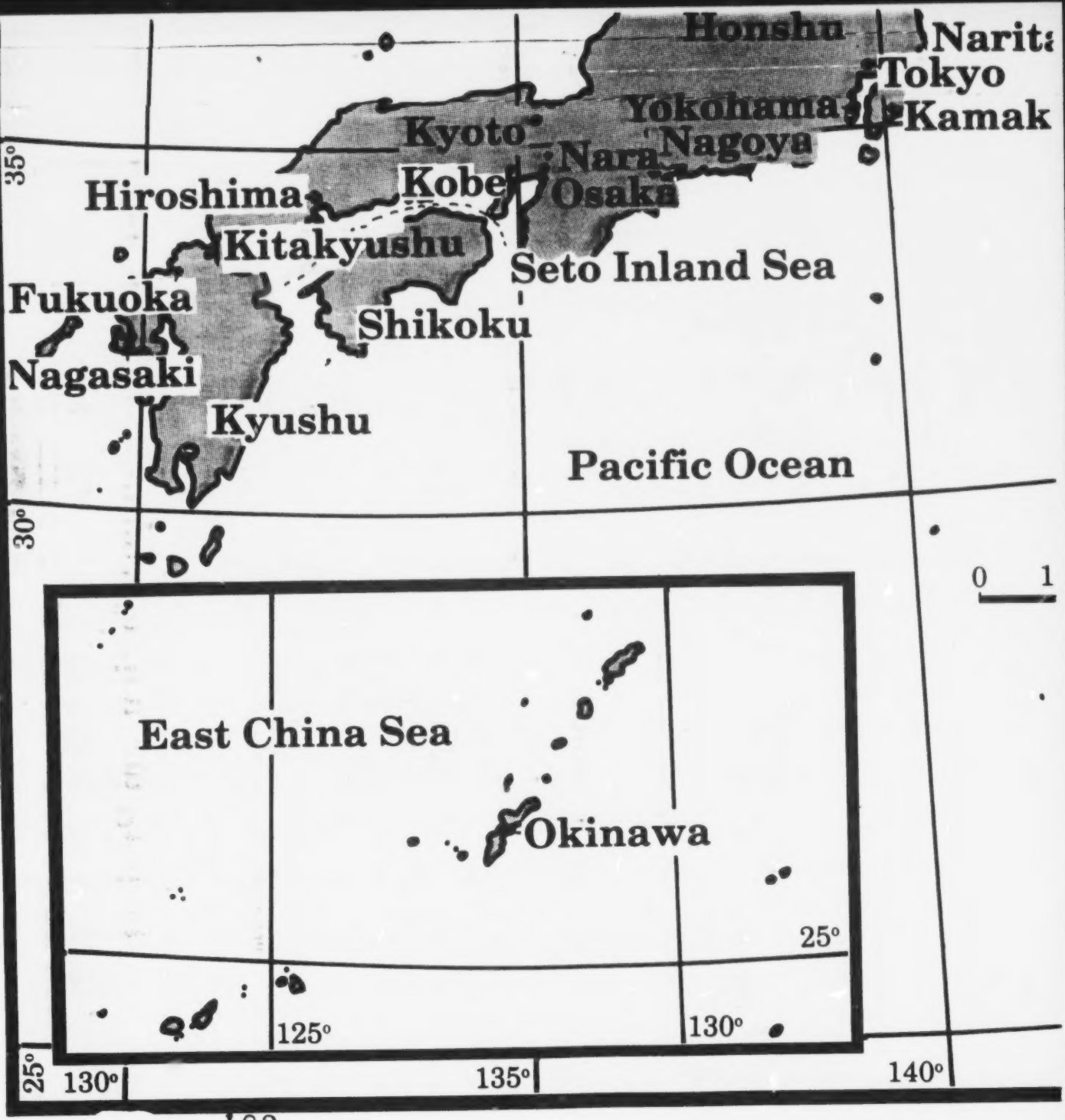
Narita

Tokyo

Yokohama

Kamakura

35°



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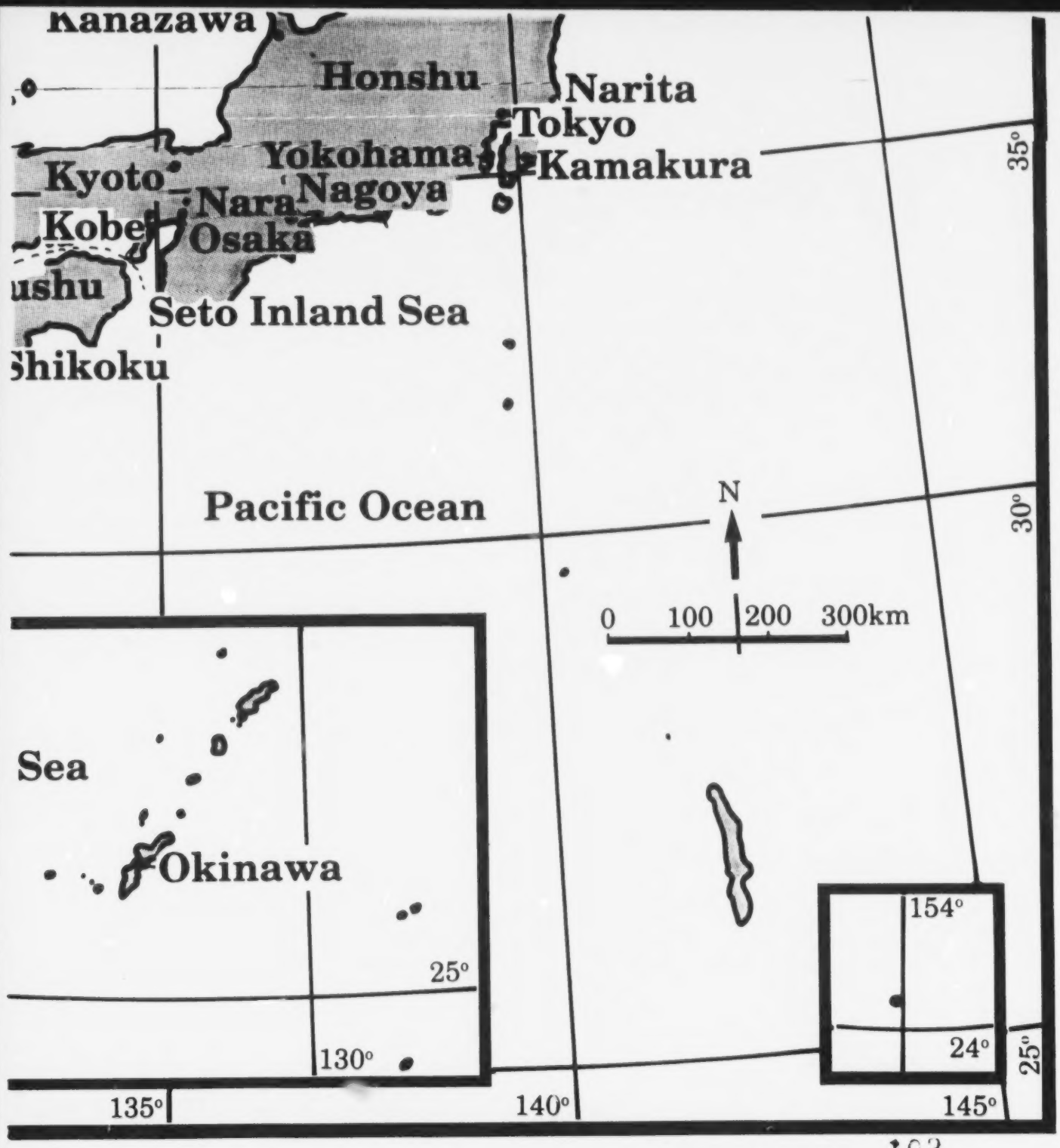

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Japan trading datafile

WORKFORCE	Japan	Australia
TOTAL	62.4million	8.19million
COMMERCE, SERVICES	54.4%	34.7%
MANUFACTURING	24.4%	16.1%
AGRICULTURE, FISHING	8.4%	5.0%
CONSTRUCTION	9.2%	7.3%
GOVT. & PUBLIC AUTHORITIES	3%	4.0%
Comparisons following from ***ASIAWEEK***, May, 1990		
GNP PER CAPITA ($A - May, '90)	$30 103	$21 118
GDP GROWTH	4.9%	4.3%
EXPORTS (12months)	355.3 billion	43.2 billion
SURPLUS/DEFECIT	+74.5 billion	- 17.8 billion
FOREIGN DEBT	0+	101.6 billion
CPI	2.1%	7.8%
TOURISM AND TRANSPORT		
ARRIVALS ('88)	2.4 million	2.2 million
DEPARTURES ('88)	8.4 million	1.7 million

MAJOR INDUSTRIES
iron & steel, motor vehicles, colour TV sets, industrial electronic equipment, machine tools

MAJOR AGRICULTURE
fisheries, beef & pork, logs, vegetables

MINING
coal

OIL & NATURAL GAS
oil, gas

MAJOR IMPORTS
petroleum, foodstuffs, machinery & equipment, fish & shellfish, coal, wood

MAJOR EXPORTS
machinery & equipment, motor vehicles, iron & steel, chemicals, vessels, textiles

AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN — Major trading partners

AUSTRALIA'S TOP EXPORTS TO JAPAN ($ million, Australian)

	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
meat & meat preparations	604	666	851
fish, crustaceans, molluscs	316	377	357
cereals & cereal preparations	366	353	397
textile fibres	791	1 272	1 377
metalliferous ores & scrap metal	1 332	1 158	1 009
coal, coke & briquettes	2 605	2 360	2 474
non-ferrous metals	345	1 257	1 691
commodities & financial transactions	2 064	2 360	2 474
feeding stuff for animals	56	87	104
hides & skins (raw)	47	72	77
crude fertilisers	47	83	100
road vehicles	59	73	37
TOTAL TRADE	9 083	10 684	11 840
As a percentage of our total exports	25.4%	26.0%	27.2%

In 1986 Australia was ranked fifth most important trading partner of Japan providing 5.5% of all imports to Japan and buying 2.5% of Japan's exports.

AUSTRALIA'S TOP IMPORTS FROM JAPAN ($ million, Australian)

	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
rubber manufactures	174	209	264
textile yarns, fabrics & made up articles	260	226	208
iron & steel	312	323	358
manufactures of metal	206	205	168
power generating machinery	468	409	224
specialised industrial machinery	340	394	517
office & data processing machines	751	746	938
telecommunication & sound equipment	800	684	774
electrical machinery & equipment	501	545	567
road vehicles	1 729	1 966	3 249
photographic, optical & watches	218	224	217
commodities & financial transactions	214	215	218
TOTAL TRADE	7 710	7 817	9 766
As a percentage of our total imports	20.8%	19.3%	20.8%

At the same time Japan was our number one market for exports, buying 26.9%, and just in front of the USA as supplier of imports 22.3%.

Sources: *Asia 1990 Yearbook*, Far Eastern Economic Review, *ASIAWEEK*, *Foreign Trade Australia — Comparative and Summary Tables, 1988-89*, ABS, *Japan 1988 — An International Comparison*, Keizai Koho Center

Assignment sheet

AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN — Major trading partners

To complete these activites you will need copies of:-
- ***Japan trading datafile***, Asia Wise, Issue 6, 1990;
- ***Worksheet 1&2 Australia's trading relations with Asia***, Asia Wise, Issue 1, 1990; and
- ***Australia and Indonesia***, Asia Wise Issue 4, 1990.

Other useful Asia Wise resources on trade with Asia are to be found in the ***Asia Wise Workbook — Number ONE*** pages, 9, 34, 40, 51, and 52.

Define these terms

trade	**balance of trade**	**foreign debt**	**EEC**
imports	**interdependence**	**marketing**	**ASEAN**
exports	**exchange rate**	**commodity**	**multinational**
trading blocs	**terms of trade**	**tariff**	**subsidiary**

Choose from these activities

1 What are Japan's major exports and imports and who are its trading partners?

Prepare graphs of imports and exports to and from Japan. Make a collage of pictures showing Japanese goods sold in Australia. Discuss the trends in trade between Japan and Australia since WW2. Discuss and list Japanese influences on our daily life in Australia (food, household appliances, transport and electronics).

2 What are some of Japan's multinational companies?

Find out the names of some of the important Japanese companies and whether they have Australian branches or subsidiaries.

3 How have Japan's overseas investment and aid policies changed in recent years?

Collect newspaper articles about Japanese investment and aid in Australia and other countries in the Pacific region. Use this background information to write: -
- a personal viewpoint for or against overseas investment;
- an information report;
- a newspaper editorial; or
- a script for a TV current events program.

4 How important to Australia is trade with Japan?

Imagine you have to present a paper or talk on the importance of Japan to Australia as a trading partner. Use the ***Japan trading datafile*** and other sources such as the ***Australian Year Book*** to prepare a series of graphs and diagrams showing trends in overall trade, in trade in particular commodities and balance of trade figures and variations in foreign exchange rates. Suggest or predict possible future outcomes and variations. Compare Australia's trade with Japan with its trade with the USA, UK and EEC.

5 What are some of the commodities that your state, territory or district exports to Japan?

Make a list of products exported to Japan from your area. Group them according to different criteria, such as greatest value, primary produce, minerals, processed foods, perishables, airfreight, products exported by sea, manufactured goods and high-tech goods. Find out where in Japan they are sent and who buys them.

6 What are some of the most successful products exported to Japan?

Choose one of the categories of trade with Japan and make a detailed study. Try to find information about when the product was introduced to the Japanese market, how it was promoted and why it sells well.

7 How important is thorough preparation when trying to introduce new products to the Japanese market?

Imagine you are in charge of a new exporting venture to Japan. Make a list of some of the things you would need to consider before trying to sell your product, such as who to contact for advice, how to transport your goods, how to advertise your product, the importance of having access to a Japanese speaker during negotiations and the role of agencies such as AUSTRADE. Use this information to prepare an advertising campaign.

8 How does Australia's trade with Japan compare to trade with other Asian nations?

Use *Asia Wise* resources listed above to make comparisons between Australia's trade with Japan and other nations such as China, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines. Draw comparative graphs and diagrams and prepare displays to illustrate trade variations. Discuss how the UK joining the EEC has helped to change Australia's trading patterns.

Japanese language resources from the Curriculum Development Centre

Over a quarter of a million students have studied Japanese using the Alfonso: Japanese series. Stock numbers are included for convenience.

Alfonso Japanese — Teacher's manual

6040 $32.50
This book is the teacher's key to the entire Alfonso Japanese language series. In his introductory remarks 'To the teacher' Professor Alfonso explains his approach to the teaching of Japanese language. The Teacher's manual is closely linked with Japanese Book 1 student text and contains teacher's notes plus worksheets for Units 1-30 and supplementary activities. 229 pages.

Alfonso Japanese — student texts

Book 1— Units 1-30 with ten accompanying units on reading and writing Japanese script. Especially suitable for early secondary. 224 pages.
6043 $16.95 or 3472 for pack of 10, $152.55.

Book 2— Units 31-60 with accompanying units (11-40) on reading and writing Japanese script. Delightfully illustrated for years 9 and 10. 272 pages.
6044 $28.50 or 3474 for pack of 10, $256.50.

Book 3 — Units 61-85 with accompanying units (41-65) on reading and writing Japanese script. For senior students 416 pages.
6307 $29.95 or 3476 for pack of 10, $269.55

Book 4— Units 86-95 with integrated reading and writing lessons. For senior students 148 pages.
6318 $19.85 or 3478 for pack of 10, $178.65

Nihongo: Japanese tapes

Book 1 tapes — Ten audio-cassette tapes, recorded on two sides, for spoken language instruction related to Units 1-30.
6022 $74.95

Book 2 tapes — Twelve audio-cassette tapes, recorded on two sides, for spoken language instruction related to Units 31-52
6120 $94.95

Sixty picture cards

3342 $25.00
Sixty A4 black and white picture cards to accompany Alfonso Japanese Book 1. The pictures can be used to illustrate the dialogues in each unit and also as a stimulus for other language activities. Suitable for individual and group work. Can be enlarged for whole class activities.

Hiragana in 48 minutes

Student pack of 46 cards,3470 $6.95, 3470, pack of 10, $62.55.
Teachers set A4 set plus student pack 3511, $37.50

Katakana in 48 minutes

Student pack of 46 cards,3334 $6.95, 3597, pack of 10, $62.55.
Teachers set A4 set plus student pack, 3335 $37.50

Japanese — Supplementary materials

Book 1— 3330 $6.95 or 3598 for pack of 10, $62.55
- English-Japanese script dictionary
- Illustrated dialogues
- Hiragana writing exercises.

Book 2— 3331 $7.95 or 3599 for pack of 10, $71.55
- English-Japanese script dictionary
- Illustrated dialogues
- Katakana writing exercises.

Book 3— 3332 $7.95 or 3600 for pack of 10, $71.55
- English-Japanese script dictionary
- Kanji writing exercises.

Book 4— 3333 $7.95 or 3601 for pack of 10, $71.55
- English-Japanese script dictionary
- Japanese script-English dictionary
- Kanji writing practice.

Available from

The Publications Officer
CDC, PO Box 34
Woden ACT 2606

Lynn Williams, 1990, ***Active Japanese 1.*** Longman Paul Limited, 16.99

Active Japanese 1 is the first of six books in the Active Japanese series. It is the result of several years of experiments in presenting Japanese language to junior high students in New Zealand. The final text grew out of worksheets, notes and activities that the author used with her own classes. The five topics covered are Greetings, In the classroom, School life, Time, days and numbers and The weather. Revision exercises and achievement and vocabulary checklists are also a feature.

Margaret Lee, 1989, ***Isshoni,*** Moreton Bay Publishing, $13.95

This course of study has been designed to enable students to read, write, speak and listen with understanding to simple but authentic Japanese. The situations and topics included are Self-introduction, School life, Knowing what's what, Dining out, Shopping, Making arrangements and Homestay. The twelve units of work are supported with numerous illustrations, activities and extensive glossaries. A teacher's book is available for $29.95 and a cassette will be available soon at $12.95.

Taeko Kamiya, 1989, ***Japanese for Fun,***, Tuttle Language Library

Subtitled Make your stay in Japan more enjoyable, this handbook is designed to teach useful expressions for everyday situations like shopping, dining out, riding trains and making reservations. It also contains practical advice for the visitor to Japan.

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To mention the name India is, for some, to create pictures of exotic lands, of Maharajahs, of elephants. Some see colourful religious festivals, while others may see busy streets and beggars. Some may see violence and others gentler images of cricket matches. India is a great mix of images.

It might not be obvious that Australia and India have much in common. However, both countries were once part of the British Empire and both are now members of the British Commonwealth. Both countries share January 26 as their National Day. Interestingly, India's celebrations mark the end of British rule in 1947, while Australia celebrates the arrival of the British in Australia.

In area, India is the seventh largest country in the world and with 835 million people is second only to China in population. United Nations figures show that by the year 2010 its population will have overtaken China's. A great many of these people live in acute poverty, while as many as 100 million enjoy standards of living as high or higher than the average Australian. The country is divided into 21 states and nine union territories. With15 major languages and hundreds of dialects spoken, India is a fascinating cultural and linguistic blend.

India's early history is uncertain but we know that Aryan peoples from the southern Russian steppes and Iran began to colonise India from about BC1 500.

Indian Perspectives

Hinduism evolved from the religions of the Aryan and Indus Valley civilisations. From the third century BC, Buddhism grew in influence, but Hinduism finally emerged as the religion followed by most Indians. Islam is also important. It was introduced in the 12th century and today one in eight Indians is a Moslem.

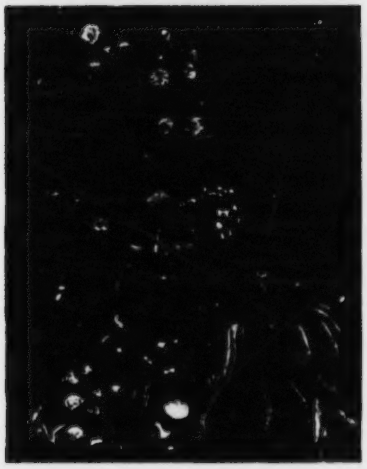
Western influences began with the coming of Portugese traders and Christian missionaries from Britain and Holland in the 16th century. British influence grew through the East India Company, which by the 1760s was the major force in Bengal. A series of conflicts saw the Company's power extend throughout the entire subcontinent, although a third of the territory remained in the hands of local princes. After the Indian 'Mutiny', power finally shifted to Britain. Queen Victoria was crowned Empress of India in 1870.

British rule was essentially based on creating wealth for Britain, particularly through cash crops such as cotton, indigo and opium. Many of these were used as raw materials for Britain's industrial revolution. An English-style education system was introduced to create a class of Indian bureaucrats who could run India for the British. Those who led the long independence struggle had mostly been educated in the British tradition and were familiar with ideas of Western democracy. They could see that they were being denied freedom under British rule.

Indian nationalist leader, Mahatma Gandhi, launched a remarkable campaign of non-violence, non-cooperation and civil disobedience. After independence the bulk of India's states joined the new India, although Pakistan was formed as an Islamic nation.

As a developing nation, India is beset with a great many difficulties. The most serious of these is poverty. The benefits of development are quickly eroded by a large and rapidly increasing population.

Thousands of Australians journey to India each year to experience the mystery that is India — to seek the cultural heritage which India has in such rich abundance. It is the contrasts of this Hindu culture, land of history, of tradition and a mix of old and new that proves attractive to so many in the West.

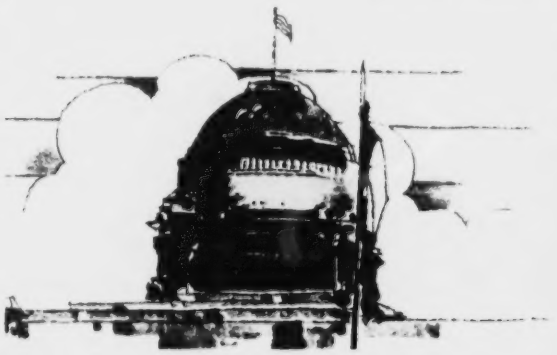


The modern nation of India is home to more than 835 million culturally diverse people. However, there are three basic and distinct groups who settled in what is now India many thousands of years ago.

The first of these spread throughout India and still live in hill and forest regions. They were joined by dark-skinned Dravidians. It is unclear where these people came from or at what time in history they arrived, but we know that they were a highly organised people. The remains of their civilisation can still be seen in great ruined cities dating back more than 5 000 years. The Dravidians were in turn displaced by Aryans from central Asia more than 3 500 years ago. Both the Hindu religion and the caste system which is part of that religion evolved from the Vedic tradition of the Aryans and the religions of the pre-Aryan population.

India won independence from the British in 1947 and is a unified nation. Independence for India did not come easily and demands for the removal of the British had long been strong. In 1857 a Mutiny of Indian soldiers of the army in India, or War of Independence, depending on whose history books you choose to read took place. Despite this it was another 90 years before India managed to win her independence under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

However, with such a diverse population, India is also home to a large number of movements for independence from the central government. The struggles of these movements occasionally spill over into violence.



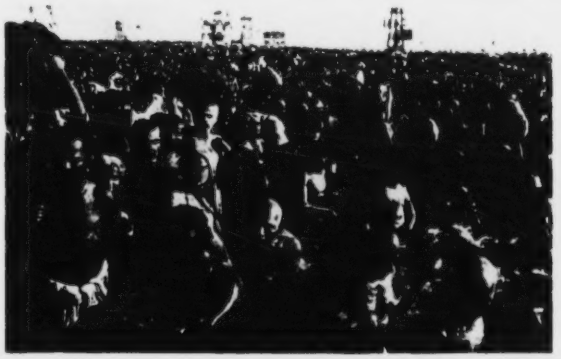
Gandhi had a very different approach to the freedom struggle than the mutineers. He was a lawyer who had worked overseas for a number of years. When he returned to India he resolved to unite his people against Britain. He firmly believed that the village-based civilisation which had developed in India over thousands of years was superior to British industrialisation.

He won the leadership of the Indian nationalist movement because of his undeniable abilities and also because he closely identified with the poorest sections of society. He lived and acted in the manner of the poorest of Indians and went out of his way to fight for the rights of the lowest sector in society — the 'Untouchables' — who were considered to be beyond contact with the higher castes.

His plan to remove the British included no military tactics at all. He was convinced that any military action would end in defeat for his people and was against the use of force to win an argument. For a quarter of a century Gandhi and his followers kept up their campaign of passive resistance to British rule. Indians, under the guidance of Gandhi, refused any honours from the British government, boycotted the law courts, schools and universities and refused to have anything to do with goods made in Britain.

Many of his supporters resigned from official positions and refused to pay taxes. One example of this non-violent action came in 1930 when Gandhi demanded an end to the controversial salt tax, which everyone was forced to pay. He led a 24 day 'salt march' to the sea with 78 supporters where they were met by thousands of Indians. They began boiling sea water to extract tax-free salt. The British simply arrested them. Gandhi and up to 60 000 others were arrested. Gandhi's movement eventually persuaded the British Labour government that India must be given independence.

The oldest living faith



Indian Perspectives

All of the major religions of the world can be found in India, but one stands out above all others — Hinduism. More than 83 percent of all Indians are Hindu. It is more than a religion — it is a way of life. Unlike Christianity, there is no organised church, but a central belief that there is a Universal Spirit or Brahman who is unknowable. This spirit shows himself to the world in various forms, particularly as the trinity of Brahma the creator, Vishnu, the preserver and Shiva the destroyer. Shiva can also be the builder because life and death are closely linked in Hindu belief.

Hindus believe in reincarnation.

These three manifestations of the supreme spirit in turn have other manifestations, or avators. Uneducated Hindus would say that there are thousands of 'gods' while others might say that they are, in fact, all manifestations of the one god — Brahman.

According to Hindu teaching, all living things pass through a series of rebirths and the future life of a person depends on his or her deeds or *karma*. If you do evil then you will come back as a member of a lower caste or possibly an animal, insect or even vegetable.

In theory there are only four castes in Hindu society. These are the *Brahmans* (priests and teachers), *Kshatriyas* (kings, warriors and aristocrats), *Vaishyas* (traders and merchants) and *Sudras* (farmers). However, if you ask an Indian his caste, he is likely to tell you his *jati* or subdivision of one of the castes. There are hundreds of jatis in India. There is another group, thought to be too lowly to be part of the caste groups. These are known as 'Untouchables'. They were considered to be unclean and especially in southern India were made to avoid contact with caste Hindus. In parts of the country they are still discriminated against. For instance they must draw water from separate wells.

Gandhi sought to improve their lot and fought against the caste system. He called the Untouchables, *Harijans*, or the children of God. The government has provided special conditions for harijans under the Constitution in an attempt to improve their conditions. Some have become wealthy but many remain socially and economically oppressed.

Among the Hindu gods

Indian Perspectives

There are probably thousands of different Hindu gods and so most believers tend to select favourites and ignore the rest when it comes time for worship. However, the chief gods, Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva appear in most legends and sacred writings of Hinduism as they represent the endless cycle of birth, life and death.

Brahma is believed to have created the universe and is the god of wisdom. He is pictured as having four heads and rides a goose. Vishnu is the god of the earth and the sky. He is kind, compassionate and loving. When his help was needed on earth he is said to have appeared as a god in human form. Shiva, as the 'destroyer' is savage, cruel and frightening but he is also the god of fertility and is capable of destroying demons.

Another prominent Hindu deity is Devi who is a powerful mother-goddess. She often takes the form of other characters. There are kind and loving versions of Devi — Sati, Parvati and Uma and fierce and violent ones — Shakti, Urga (who rides a tiger) and Kali, who demands blood sacrifices. Then there is Sarasvati — a water goddess — said to have invented the ancient Indian script of Sanskrit. She is the goddess of poetry, music and science.

Animal gods are also important. Ganesha is a much-loved elephant god who is wise, clever and careful and who removes obstacles. Garuda is the king of the birds with the head, talons, wings and beak of an eagle and the body of a man. He helps Vishnu fight against evil. Hanumant is a clever monkey god who is a favourite with the poor because of his selfless devotion and service to Rama — one of the earthly forms of Vishnu.

Not surprisingly, with such a galaxy of gods, Indian cultural life is rich in festivals and celebration.

Mention the words Indian cooking and an immediate thought that pops into many heads is hot curry. Curry is certainly Indian but hot is something that curry does not have to be. It all depends on which part of the country the cook comes from. Indian cooking covers a wide range of tastes and styles. Perhaps you would like to have a go at this recipe for

Spicy Fried Chicken.

1kg chicken pieces
3 teaspoons vegetable oil
2 medium onions, chopped
1 1/2 teaspoons ground coriander
3 cloves garlic, chopped
1/2 teaspoon cumin
1 1/2 teaspoons paprika
3 teaspoons grated fresh ginger
3 tablespoons lemon juice
1/4 teaspoon chilli powder
2 tablespoons chopped mint
2 teaspoons salt
2 teaspoons sesame oil
oil for deep frying

1. Puree together the onions, garlic, ginger, lemon juice, mint, sesame oil and vegetable oil in an electric blender.
2. Mix in the coriander, cumin, paprika, chilli powder and salt.
3. Coat the chicken with the mixture and allow to stand for several hours or overnight.
4. Cook the chicken pieces in hot oil until golden brown and cooked through. Serve immediately.

Meals for the most part are quite simple in India and vegetarianism is common. The main reason is not so much religious but rather economic. Meat, poultry and fish are luxuries for millions of poor Indian families.

Alcohol is not normally drunk in India. Meals are usually accompanied by *lassi*, water, coconut milk or fruit juice. It is common to add spices such as cardomom or cinnamon to tea to add fragrance and taste.

The sacred cow

A common expression is that something is a 'sacred cow'. The saying comes from India because the cow is considered to be holy by Hindus. It is considered to be a great sacrilege to eat beef. Many Westerners have expressed their criticism of this belief, saying that with wide-spread poverty, the Indians should begin to eat the 'sacred cows'. However, cows still wander freely throughout India.

While Hindus do not eat their cattle, they certainly make use of the animals. Milk and milk products are an important part of Indian life and an important form of nourishment. Milk is used in a great many forms. For instance it is made into *dahi* or curds and yoghurt. This can be turned into a refreshing drink called *lassi* which is very good for you. It is also used in curry dishes and desserts. *Paneer*, or curd cheese, is another milk product. Cream is made into butter, which is then made into into *ghee* by boiling. Ghee is used not only in cooking but in religious ceremonies as well as it is thought to be the highest form of purity. While very little meat is eaten in India it is not difficult for the average Indian family to get a balanced diet of carbohydrates, proteins and fats. An average meal might consist of a curry, white rice and a vegetable dish, lentils in some form and unleavened Indian bread or *chapatis*.

Indian Perspectives

Indian Perspectives

Curry is the best known of all Indian foods and part of everyday life for most Indians. Making curry becomes a very individual thing and each region in the country has its own speciality and each family its own favourite recipe.

Anything from six to more than 20 different spices may be combined to make up a single curry. Cream, curds or ghee (clarified butter) is often added to make the curry sauce smooth and thick. In some parts of the country the favoured spices are sweet and aromatic and in others the desired curry is stronger and spicier. It all comes down to what you like best and to what ingredients are available locally. For example, in Kashmir, where fruit is grown, curries often contain fruit.

Every culture and every nation has certain forms of behaviour and sets of manners which help to make it unique. India is no exception and there are a whole range of do's and don'ts for Indians and hopefully for visitors to remember.

Feet, for instance, play a big part in being polite in India. Shoes are considered to be unclean and so they are always removed before entering the home and temples, mosques or other sacred places. It is considered to be good manners for the young to touch the feet of older family members. The young receive blessings for this. It is thought to be very rude to sit with the soles of your feet facing another person.

Cleanliness is important too. Hands are washed before meals and hands and mouths are washed after eating. Hindus bathe before worship at temples. Washrooms are generally attached to mosques as well.

Which hand you use is important in Indian culture and customs. The right hand is always used for 'clean' tasks such as eating, while the left hand is used for purposes of personal hygiene. When food or gifts are exchanged, the left hand is never used on its own. Many of the traditions and customs of India, like many other cultures, are based on ancient rituals. Often these rituals had their foundation in survival techniques. Ways of preparing food and of cleanliness became ritualised but often had their beginnings in ways to avoid disease.

Indians are a polite people and do not like to say no to a guest. Often there will be a rather roundabout way of letting you down if the answer to a request must be 'no'. One very common gesture in India is the greeting which sees people putting their palms together as if in prayer. It is usually answered by a similar gesture which shows respect.

Taking a few minutes out to check on the customs and ways of politeness of another people is a pretty harmless thing to do. It has some plusses as well. It is an interesting thing to do for its own sake and makes your host feel much more warmly toward you, the visitor.

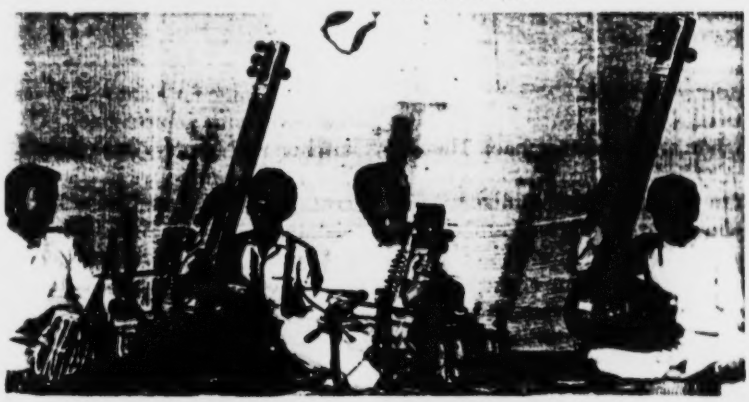
The flag of the Indian National Congress, which led the struggle for independence, was made up of three colours — orange, white and green, with a blue spinning wheel in the centre. The colours represented the two main religions and the peace intended to exist between them. After the winning of independence, the new government of India kept this flag but changed the spinning wheel for the blue *chakra*, which is the Buddhist symbol representing the Law of *Dharma*, or eternal change.

Traditional music

Traditional music is perhaps one of the most easily recognised sounds of India. It became popular in the West in the 1960s when some Western bands, and particularly the Beatles, began using Indian instruments.

According to Hindu legend, Sarasvati, the goddess of learning and arts, blesses all musical instruments. There are four basic types of instruments used in Indian music — *Tantu*, or stringed, *Susir*, or wind, *Avanada*, or percussion and *Ghana*, or bells, cymbals and gongs.

Probably the best known of all Indian instruments would be the *sitar*, which is made from a seasoned gourd and teakwood. It has two sets of strings on two separate bridges. The main set has six or seven strings and the other from 11 to 19 strings. These strings are plucked with a *mizrah* or plectrum which is worn on the index finger.



Standards of living in India vary greatly. Millions of Indians live in terrible poverty with many being born, living their whole lives and dying without ever having had a home. The millions of urban and rural poor struggle to eke out a living, often with little access to services, education etc. At the other end of the scale are very rich Indians, enjoying a life style which puts them in the top market annuities in the world. There is also a thriving middle class — Indian yuppies — who are enjoying a rapidly rising standard of living.

If we take two urban children from two different parts of India, we can begin to see something of life in this hugely populated country.

Courtesy of Qantas
Adapted from case studies produced in the Qantas production *Children in Asia*

. . . Amala Mukerjee

antas

— a dancer from Madras
Amala is ten years old and loves to dance. She comes from a middle class family in the Indian state of Andra Pradesh. Her father is a ship designer and she has one sister. Her father wanted his daughter to succeed in her dream to become a traditional dancer and so agreed to send her to a boarding school in Madras which allows her to continue her normal education while attending dance classes.

Amala is in grade 5 and is in a class of 33 other students. School starts at 8am and continues until 3pm. She studies Tamil, which is the language of Tamil Nadu the state in which she lives, Hindi which is the national language of India, English, mathematics, science, social studies, art, music and physical education. Classes are usually conducted in English because with so many languages spoken in the country, English is one they have in common. The school is set in lawns making the summer temperatures of the high 30s a little easier to bear.

When the school day ends it is time to get ready for dance class. Classical dance in India still has a strong religious significance and usually retells Hindu stories. Amala still has six years of formal education to complete. After that she hopes to enrol in a full-time dance school for a further four years before becoming a professional dancer and teacher.

. . . Ksharma Pawar

antas

— Bombay schoolgirl
Ksharma lives in an inner city suburb of Bombay with her father and mother, nine brothers and sisters as well as an uncle, aunt and two nephews. Ksharma is nine years old and would like to be a doctor when she finishes school. There is very little chance of this as her family is poor and a university education is both long and expensive.

She lives in one of the more crowded areas of Bombay. An estimated three million people live in overcrowded sub-standard housing in these high-rise blocks of flats. Home for Ksharma is just one room with an attached kitchen and laundry/bathroom. The entire family live in these cramped conditions. One of her sisters spent some time in hospital recently when part of the ceiling collapsed on her as she slept.

However, despite the poverty, Ksharma is at school. All of her brothers and sisters have received an education and her family hopes that she will at least be able to finish high school. Some schools in Bombay lose as many as 70 percent of their students after grade four because poverty makes it impossible to stay at school. She likes school and still dreams of going on to higher education, but with her father's clerical job with the government it is not very likely that she will be given the opportunity.

One feature of life in the late 20th century is the way the West has looked to other cultures to find different ways to help people to live in the modern world. Traditional Asian medicines, acupuncture and herbal remedies are all popular. Meditation and yoga have also made a big impact on Western thinking in recent years. India is, of course, home to yoga and great exponents of the art of yoga, or yogis as they are known are not uncommon. Gyanander is, however, a rarity even among Indian yogis.

Gyanander has just returned to India after a tour of Singapore, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Italy where he has been proving that the mind can have mastery over the body. What stunned audiences most of all was his 'performance' of *Samadhi* which literally means god-contact. The yogi had himself buried alive for 18 hours, while doctors monitored his heart rate and pulse. Gradually his heart rate slowed and then stopped. Blood ceased to flow. He appeared dead and his body stiffened. However, he remained fully aware of his body during the 18 hour ordeal.

The master is a lecturer in yoga in the Indian capital and is proving, to those who still doubt, that his exercise actually works. As he pointed out to interviewers after coming back to 'life' yoga is

becoming increasingly used around the world for athletes to keep fit, for people to lose weight and by millions just as a way to enjoy good health. He claims to be able to cure most ailments through yoga, and after all, who can argue with a man who brings himself back from the dead?

Ceremonial elephants

Indian Perspectives

Times change and so so do fashions in most things. A wealthy Indian seeking a status symbol would more than likely opt for the most 'up-market' car available. A hundred years ago the rich Indian would have chosen, as a transportation status symbol, an elephant completely decked out with jewels as a showy way of letting the world know he was not just well off but way ahead of the ordinary people.

During various ceremonies, an Indian prince or maharajah would choose a ceremonial elephant to display his wealth. When setting out for a hunting expedition, he would ride in style atop his elephant. But times change and the only place the poor old elephant gets any looks of admiration these days is if it is part of a circus.

An age-old profession in India was that of the *mahout* or keeper of elephants. Today in a slum district in New Delhi there are still a handful of these mahouts and a dozen or so elephants still ready to be spruced up for action. Each year on 26 January, which is India's national day, the elephants make a short-lived comeback as the government hires them for the festivities. Apart from that their keepers can only count on an occasional advertising promotion or for the odd lavish wedding celebration. The future for both elephants and their keepers is not too bright and the few remaining mahouts agree that theirs will be the last generation of professional elephant keepers in India.

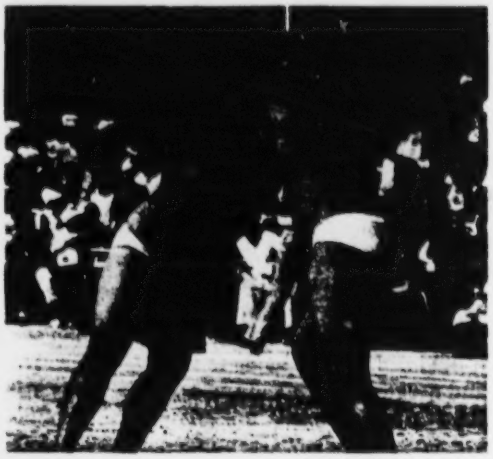
It's an interesting fact that language has developed very much according to how people travel and settle in different countries. Words from one country often find their way into the language of another. English has picked up all sorts of words from all sorts of places over the centuries. As India was a part of the old British Empire, it is not all that surprising that a number of words which come from India are now very much a part of our language. A few examples are:

Shawl — a scarf worn over the shoulders;
Bungalow — a one storey house with a verandah which is found in Bengal;
Punch — a mixed drink which comes from the Hindi word *panch*, meaning five;
Loot — plunder or the proceeds from a robbery
Thug — a villain which comes from the word *thugee* or a worshipper of the goddess Kali;
Chintz and **calico** — all forms of cloth from India; and
Khaki — a hindi word meaning the colour brown.

Sport and equality

The Indian people have a love of sport that is equalled by few nations on earth. Australians are very much aware of the great passion Indians have for cricket which was introduced by the British when they ruled India. There is hardly a village anywhere in the country where you would not find a group of children with a bat and ball in hand.

Sport has on more than the odd occasion made those with ideas of one race being superior to another just a little annoyed. The 'philosophy' of racial superiority of Hitler and his Nazi Party was dealt a blow in 1936 when Berlin hosted the Olympic Games. Not only did black American runner Jessie Owen make Hitler's ideas look ridiculous by winning a number of gold medals, but the Indian hockey team also dealt a blow at the supremacist ideas of Hitler. In fact the Indians won so easily that Hitler thought they must have cheated. He ordered that their hockey sticks be checked for glue or to find whether magnets had been stuck onto them. What he did not know was that hockey was an Indian invention. Other sports have their origins in India as well. There is a strong theory that chess had its beginnings in India. It is known that ancient Indian rulers played chess, or *shatranj*, with live chess men dressed in appropriate clothing. The chess board was a courtyard of black and white marble. Polo and snooker are also said to have their beginnings in old India. The period of play in polo is called a 'chukker' — a word which has been borrowed from India, while the riding breeches or jodhpurs take their name from the city of Jodhpur, famous for its love of the game.



Indian Perspectives

But if these games have their beginnings in India, it is still cricket which has captured the hearts and minds of millions of devoted Indian fans.

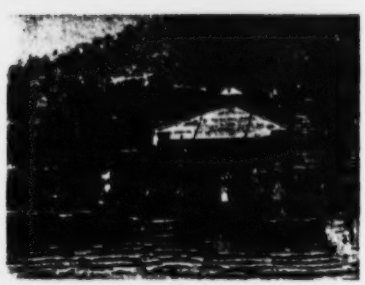
Traditional games

Traditional Indian games are still played in rural India. Possibly the best loved of these is *kabbadi*. There are a great many variations of this game, but basically it involves two teams in a marked off area. They send raiders into each other's territory who repeat over and over the word kabbadi. They must attempt to touch a member of the opposing team and get back to their own territory in order to register a 'kill'. If he is grabbed by the opposing side and is unable to keep shouting kabbadi, then he is considered to be dead. Kabbadi championships are held at both state and national levels.

Another popular village game is *gulli danda* or tip-cat. A piece of wood is shaped so that it can be tipped and hit by a stick. Pole climbing and wrestling are other favourites among many across India. During spring-time kite flying is taken on in a big way. On certain days the skies over some towns and cities are filled with these colourful kites. Fierce competition and betting takes place when it comes time for kite flying and in particular when it comes to fighting kites. Kites are moved into each other's flight paths and attempts are made to cut the strings of the opposing kite.

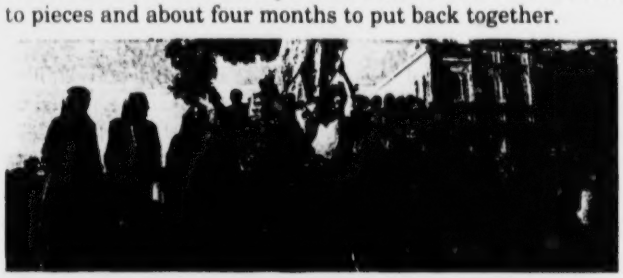
Indian Perspectives

A new hydro-electric project is being built at Srisailam in the Indian state of Andrha Pradesh. The project looked like posing a particular problem as more than 100 temples along the Krishna river would have been submerged. The good news is that they have been saved.



Indian Perspectives

Some of the temples date back to the year AD2. Not wanting to lose such an important part of their heritage, but needing the electric power which would come from the scheme, the government decided to move the temples, stone by stone and rebuild in another area. The whole operation started in 1979. Each temple took about two months to take to pieces and about four months to put back together.



Asia wise

TEACHERS' SECTION

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India has been very much in the news in recent months as tensions between India and Pakistan developed into war-like posturing. The decision of Australia to sell a number of Mirage jets to Pakistan drew loud criticism from many quarters. Australia was portrayed as playing a less than positive role in these tensions.

Given this heightened awareness of India in our media, it is appropriate that we look at India. However, it is not so much contemporary politics that are featured in this issue of *Asia Wise*, but rather the development of this Asian giant, its culture and history. It is an extremely significant nation, being the seventh largest in area and second only to China in population. Its huge population is perhaps the single biggest difficulty the country faces. In the not too distant future India will assume the dubious honour of being the most heavily populated nation on earth.

The cultural and spiritual heritage of India is rich indeed. The Indus River Valley, which is now a part of Pakistan, was settled as early as BC3000 and a complex civilisation has been uncovered by archeologists. A wave of migration by the Aryans then took place between BC1500 and 1000. Eventually the two peoples and cultures blended, although the dominant language became that of the Aryans. The development of Hinduism and the elaborate caste system is thought to have arisen from a mix of these two cultures. The subsequent blending of cultures as a result of periodic invasion by Greeks, Asian tribes, Afghans, Persians, Turks and Europeans have all played a role in forming the Indian people.

The culture that resulted from this mix of civilisations and subsequent invasions from West Asia was again modified — this time by contact with European civilisation as represented by the British. It has been a subject of some debate as to how much the contact with the British actually modified the pre-existing culture. One school of thought maintains that the various cultures of the subcontinent have shown considerable resilience in the face of the alien European culture and that, for example, much of modern Indian politics springs from Hindu concepts of power and kingship, despite the democratic and parliamentary veneer.

Mahatma Gandhi, with his rejection of much of the modernising elements of European civilisation and particularly of industrial society, struck a powerful chord in millions of ordinary Indians. This suggests that the effect of British colonisation was felt most powerfully among the Indian elite.

In modern India, the debate as to whether resources should be applied primarily to the modern, industrial, urban sector or to 'village India' still rages. Rajiv Gandhi was seen to be a modernising influence and some feel his electoral defeat was in part a reaction to this perception.

India's major tasks, as it moves toward the 21st century, centre on ways to halt the growth of population and in developing a healthy economic base for the rising population. There are now more than 835 million people living in the country. It is estimated that this figure will double in just 32 years.

The problem of raising living standards for the poorest 30 percent of the population is made more difficult when one considers the environmental problems facing the subcontinent. In some areas irrigation has resulted in widespread salination. Excessive use of fertilisers and insecticides, diminishing returns from agriculture, widespread deforestation and the press of population all contribute to the problems being faced. The drive towards higher living standards is bound to create still more pollution and yet who would deny people in the developing world a more prosperous future? This is the great issue facing developing countries like India as they move toward the next century.

This issue of Asia Wise features a series of short articles under the heading *Focus on India*.

The materials have been accumulated from the news feature service of the Press Foundation of Asia based in Manila. Known as *DEPTHnews*, the commentaries and column items range over a number of issues pertinent to a study of India.

The articles have been grouped into four themes — environmental issues, social issues, industry and trade and culture and change. Written by journalists working in and familiar with India they give a perspective that provides substance for discussion and research.

To support teachers and students in their study of India a comprehensive datafile and map are included.

The Indian datafile provides statistics that provide a base for comparison between the nations of Asia, as shown in other issues of *Asia Wise*, and for a variety of data presentation exercises.

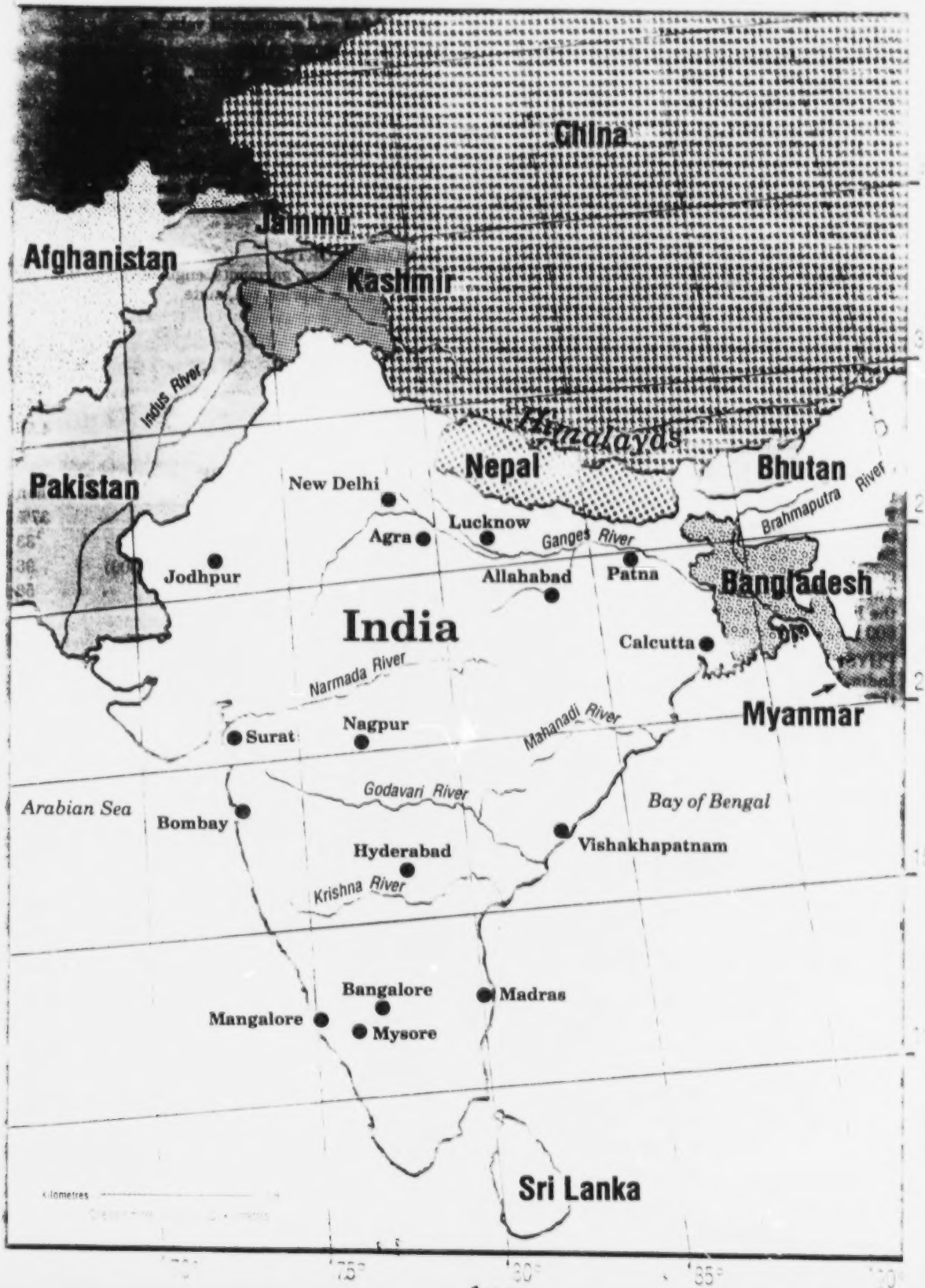
Teachers are also reminded that *Asia Wise*, Issue 3 1990, Women in Asia, contains useful articles and statistics on aspects of the life of women in India.

Produced in a photocopiable format, teachers may wish to share all or some of the focusing materials with their classes. *Asia Wise* has not produced or suggested specific activities to accompany the themes featured as their use will vary according to the level, depth and curriculum context in which they are used.

The usual measure of a country's development is its gross national product, the total goods and services it produces. But GNP gives only a rough idea of how well people live. The United Nations Development Program has worked out its own Human Development Index (HDI). This combines life expectancy, literacy and gross domestic product (GDP, which is GNP excluding money coming from abroad) adjusted to show real purchasing power. The UNDP calculated the index for the 130 countries with more than a million people. Here are some of the results.

	total pop 1988	life expectancy 1987	adult literacy c.1985	real GDP per head	HDI	HDI rank	GNP rank
CAMBODIA	7.9	49	75	$1 000	0.471	40	2
NEPAL	18.2	52	26	$722	0.273	17	8
BANGLADESH	109.6	52	33	$883	0.318	23	6
PAKISTAN	114.9	58	30	$1 585	0.423	33	36
LAOS	3.8	49	84	$1 000	0.506	46	9
INDIA	818.8	59	43	$1 053	0.439	37	25
INDONESIA	175.0	57	74	$1 660	0.591	54	41
MYANMAR	40.0	61	79	$752	0.561	50	11
VIETNAM	64.2	62	80	$1 000	0.608	56	16
PHILIPPINES	59.5	64	86	$1 878	0.714	65	46
THAILAND	54.1	66	91	$2 576	0.783	78	55
SRI LANKA	16.8	71	87	$2 053	0.789	83	38
CHINA	1104.0	70	69	$2 124	0.716	66	22
NORTH KOREA (DPRK)	21.9	70	90	$2 000	0.789	82	67
SOUTH KOREA (ROK)	42.6	70	95	$4 832	0.903	97	92
MALAYSIA	16.6	70	74	$3 849	0.800	85	80
SINGAPORE	2.6	73	86	$12 790	0.899	96	110
AUSTRALIA	16.4	76	99	$11 782	0.978	124	114
HONG KONG	5.7	76	88	$13 906	0.936	108	111
JAPAN	122.4	78	99	$13 135	0.996	130	126
USA	245.4	76	96	$17 615	0.961	112	129

INDIA


China
Jammu
Afghanistan
Kashmir
Indus River
Himalayas
Nepal
Bhutan
Pakistan
New Delhi
Lucknow
Agra
Ganges River
Brahmaputra River
Jodhpur
Allahabad
Patna
Bangladesh
India
Calcutta
Narmada River
Myanmar
Surat
Nagpur
Mahanadi River
Arabian Sea
Godavari River
Bay of Bengal
Bombay
Hyderabad
Vishakhapatnam
Krishna River
Bangalore
Madras
Mangalore
Mysore
Sri Lanka
Kilometres
75°
80°
85°

CAPITAL
New Delhi

HEADS OF GOVERNMENT
President R.Venkataraman
Prime Minister V.P. Singh

ETHNIC COMPOSITION
Ethnically the people are extremely varied. There are at least six discernible racial types: the aboriginal or pre-Dravidian type; the Dravidian type; Indo-Aryans; Aryo-Dravidian type; the Mongolian type; and the Mongolo-Dravidian type.

RELIGION
Hindus make up 82.6% of the Indian population. According to the latest figures (1981 census), there are also about 75.5 million Muslims, some 16 million Christians, 13 million Sikhs and five million Buddhists.
Hindu society is divided into separate castes, the membership of which is determined by birth. Despite efforts to lessen the socio-economic impact of the caste system, social status and to a lesser extent occupation, are still largely determined by caste considerations, which also enter significantly into politics.

LANGUAGE
The languages of north India are of the Indo-Aryan family, the most important language being Hindi. In South India, the languages belong to the Dravidian group, including Tamil, Malayalam and Telugu. There are other tribal languages in forest areas. In the Himalayas, Tibetan dialects are spoken. Over 600 languages or dialects are spoken in India.

PHYSICAL FEATURES
India, the seventh largest country in the world, has three major geographical regions: the Himalayan mountain region which extends along the entire northern border, the Peninsula to the south, including the Deccan Plateau, and in between the great plains of the Indus and Ganges Basins. Other important rivers are the Mahanadi, Krishna and Godavary.

CLIMATE
The Indian climate is marked by contrast and extremes, with seasonal heavy rains and floods, extreme heat, drought, severe storms and fierce winds, with dramatic fluctuations between good and bad years. Generally India's climate varies from tropical conditions in the south to a temperate zone in the north, and there are three well defined seasons throughout: cool from November to February, dry and hot from March to June and humid and rainy from July to October. The rainfall varies from an average of about 4 064mm in the north-east to less than 127mm per year in the north-west.

CURRENCY
rupee — 14.72 rupees = $A1.00 (2 July, '90)

Sources:
Asiaweek, 13 July, 1990
Outline Series, Department of Foreign Affairs, 1989
Asia Yearbook 1990, Far Eastern Economic Review

MAJOR INDUSTRIES
finished steel, cloth, cement, nitrogenous fertilisers, automobiles and commercial vehicles

MAJOR AGRICULTURE
rice, wheat, sugar-cane, cotton, jute, mesta, tea

MINING
coal, bauxite, copper, iron, manganese, limestone

MAJOR IMPORTS
petroleum & lubricants, non-electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances, iron & steel, pearls & precious stones, chemical elements & compounds, fertilisers

MAJOR EXPORTS
gems & jewellery, garments, engineering goods, cotton yarn & fabrics, tea, mate

AREA	
TOTAL	3 287 000
CULTIVATED	51%
FOREST	12%
PASTURE	4.5%

POPULATION STRUCTURE	
TOTAL	828 million
UNDER 15	37%
BIRTH RATE (per 1 000)	33
INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1 000)	96
LIFE EXPECTANCY	58
DEATH RATE (per 1 000)	11
AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE	2.2%

WORKFORCE	
TOTAL	300 million
COMMERCE, SERVICES	13.5%
MANUFACTURING	20.2%
AGRICULTURE, FISHING	52.4%
CONSTRUCTION	7.5%
GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC AUTHORITIES	6.8%
GNP PER CAPITA $A	$A383

SOCIAL INDICATORS		
STUDENTS	primary	107 million
	secondary	35 million
	university	4 million
RATIO OF STUDENTS PER TEACHER		
primary		58:1
secondary		21:1
PERSONS PER HOSPITAL BED		1 300
PERSONS PER DOCTOR		3 700
LITERACY RATE		34%
TV RECEIVERS		17 million
RADIOS		4.5million
CARS		1.55 million
TRUCKS & COMMERCIAL		2.5 million
MOTORCYCLES		8.5 million

I — environmental issues

Subcontinent sees a dress rehearsal in floods, drought
Prakash Chandra
An environmental catastrophe unfolded following the severe floods in Bangladesh and India in 1989. And all the rivers begin in India and Nepal.

The floods were caused by the upheaval in the ecosytem of the 2500km Himalayan mountains. It is estimated that by the year 2000 there will be one billion people living in the shadow of the Himalayas — in India and neighbouring countries.

India was forced to import large quantities of wheat and rice during 1988-89 to cope with food shortages. Production has been improved by extending the amount of land under irrigation. However, economists believe that food production alone, even on a larger scale, cannot meet the growing needs of the country's increasing population.

Increasing population pressure is one major reason for the environmental degradation which led to the floods and droughts. As more and more people exploit the forest cover, rain is no longer retained by catchment areas to be released gradually throughout the year. Rain is allowed to run off almost immediately, triggering severe floods. This leads to drought in the dry, hot months because there is not enough water to replenish rivers or underground systems. As soon as the rainy season is over the rivers dry up. Elsewhere in India, increased deforestation and conversion of forests to monoculture plantations have been a major cause of floods and drought.

When weather conditions bring drought, groundwater becomes a valuable resource. It is the most important source of drinking water in almost all of rural India. But except for alluvial areas of the Indo-Gangetic Plains, the rest of the country has very limited potential because of the predominance of hard rocks. Groundwater depletion has put parts of India in permanent drought, while excessive use in other areas has caused an increase in soil salinity.

A leading scientist working in the area says,

> ***'Ecological water resource use will become a major political conflict. Mass water conservation through people's programs together with mass afforestation is today the only remedy to save this water-rich country from water famine. India has not lost its water in an absolute sense, but has lost control over its water. The challenge today for the people of India is to regain that control..'***

Indian hillman's 'Save the forest drive' thrills the world
Jagan Nath
The movement, called Chipko (literally meaning to stick or hug) began 15 years ago in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. It was organised by Sunderlal Bahuguna a gentle unassuming hillman. As a nature lover, he launched a crusade which snowballed into an internationally renowed and copied movement.

Mr Bahuguna organised local village women to protest against deforestation by hugging each endangered tree when the woodcutters arrived. The protest followed the decision by the government to award a sports goods manufacturing firm a contract to fell ash trees. After a prolonged battle which lead to his arrest the cutting of trees in the areas ceased.

Following a Unesco Right Livelihood Award in 1987, Mr Bahuguna succeeded in persuading the government into declaring a total ban on tree felling. Chipko people have also asked the government to declare water as the primary product of the forest.

Explaining his philosophy to the people he said, 'Replace the slogan "What do the forests bear? Resin, timber and foreign exchange" with "What do the forests bear? Soil, water and pure air."' He added 'My message to the people is simple. I tell them that nature provides us with the most essential things of life — water, soil and oxygen. How can we let the forests be ravaged? Or how can we be silent when forests that we need for our survival are being destroyed by a greedy few.'

Mr Bahuguna goes on to say that people should learn to value the living products of trees including oxygen, water, soil, food, fodder, medicine, fibre and shade instead of being content to utilise the two 'dead' products — timber and firewood.

Army participates in 'greening' of India — Prakash Chandra
One of the world's biggest armies is doing a most unusual job. The Indian Army has set up a task force to engage in ecological battle.

The first 'ecological' battalion was set up in 1982. Now there are three with close to 1 800 officers and men. One of the commanding officers comments that,'Green duty' is not easy. Life in the desert is tough. Temperatures fluctuate wildly between two and 52°C.'

Projects include regenerating wasteland, halting soil erosion, creating green belts and afforestation. The Ministry of Environment and Forest officials estimate that the results could be achieved at half the cost by employing local labour. The army, however, insists that the survival rate of trees is high with reports showing that 95 percent have survived.

Garhwal women digging pits to launch an afforestation project

2—social issues

Bonded labour still a way of life in India

Jagan Nath

Arumugam is an 'Untouchable'(low-caste Hindu) living in a village in the south of India. When he was eight, his father borrowed $A12.50 from a high-caste Hindu landlord and pledged his son in exchange. Since then the boy has been a virtual slave of his master, working from 5am to 9pm. His daily wage is the equivalent of four cents.

When someone told him the government had wiped out all debts of the poor, Arumugam plucked up courage and went to his master — only to be told he still owed $A63.

Arumugam ran away. Sensing a challenge to his authority, the landlord organised a massive manhunt. Arumugam was caught and brought back, tied to a lamp-post, beaten and left without food and water for the day. His daily wage was reduced. Arumugam promised to behave.

Forty years after India's independence, the number of Arumugans is increasing. Despite government measures, caste divisions and class consciousness still dominate. Latest statistics show that about two million people continue to be in bondage.

Massive assault on rural poverty

Jagan Nath

Last year a national rural employment program was launched to address the problems of poverty, exploitation, injustice and inequalities in wealth, income and economic power. To cost 21 000million rupees ($A1840 million) it is called the Jawahar Employment Plan, a tribute to India's first Prime Minister, Jawahaarlal Nehru.

The plan makes provision for reservation of 30 percent of jobs for women and employment of at least one member of each of the 44 million poor families living in India. The plan recognises the need to restructure the rural economy — to create more irrigation potential, speedy implementation of rural land reforms and promotion of agro-industries in low-productivity areas.

In fact, the actual number of poor has vastly increased since India's independence in 1947, or even since the poverty alleviation programs were launched. A senior economist commented, 'No campaign against poverty can succeed unless growth of population is checked.'

By providing at least 50-100 days of local employment for a least one member of each poor rural family, the plan also aims at checking the migration of rural poor to cities already choking with heavy population pressures.

New strategy to muffle 'baby boom'

Prakash Chandra

This major birth control plan was introduced following findings that despite huge expenses on family planning India's population is still growing at an alarming rate — more than Australia's total population of 17 million each year.

Experts fear that the carrying capacity of land, the growing congestion in cities and lack of facilities in schools and colleges will cause chaos by the year 2000. Family planning failure has also resulted in failure in other sensitive areas like health, education and employment.

Strategies to be introduced include the provision of more auxilary nurses and special programs for women in the states of highest need. These states have the lowest female literacy rate, mean age of marriage is low, infant mortality is high, per capita income is dismal and communications poor. The previous emphasis on sterilisation has moved to one of contraception and 'spacing' of offspring. Attention has been given to the inadequacy of some of the family planning camps — some were found to lack life-saving drugs, screening techniques and even proper sterilising procedures.

Magicians bring development message — Prakash Chandra

In February last year the Chief Minister of Andhra, a former film star-turned politican used magicians to promote messages concerning environmental protection, family planning and the need to save for old age.

Hundreds of magicians are being trained in a six-week course run by the Telugu University. As magic is one of the 64 arts mentioned in the Hindu ancient texts it fits with the University charter to promote Telugu art. A well known magician explained, 'If we talk about a message it will be dull and boring — all we are doing is creating an impact.' Trainees are told to highlight welfare measures like the rice subsidy and adult education, as well as ideas of national integration and elimination of the caste system.

Do-good TV commercials—Arjuna Indian TV is being used not only to advertise products but to relay public service messages. With the number of homes with TV sets estimated at 30 million and a viewing audience of 100 million, the 'do-good' commercials deal with topics such as family welfare, child inoculation, alcoholism, drug abuse and birth control.

TV executives told me that the segments are effective in rural areas. So much so that the New Delhi city government has installed a 250metre high TV tower so the message can reach villages at the foot of the Himalayas and the hamlets in the desert state of Rajasthan. The idea must be effective as several other Asian countries have also adopted the technique.

3 — industry and trade

Four articles by Jagan Nath

India weaves silken luxury

In New York the proprietor of Royal Silks is excited. Despite high prices sales are brisk. A board behind him says, 'Jackets made from Champa Tusser'. In Bonn customers are buying clothes that come from Champa. The latest outfits designed by famous French designer, Pierre Cardin, are tusser based. Christian Dior's collection also flaunts tusser, a high quality, high class silk.

India is the world's second largest silk producer. Handloom silk fabrics and garments are high-fashion items in Canada, USA, Western Europe, West Asia and the Far East.

Indian garment exports enjoy boom

India's ready made garment industry is setting new records, growing at rate of 30 percent annually. The industry is confident that it will achieve its target of $A2 188million in 1990. Markets in Japan, Australia, New Zealand, West Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Switzerland have growth potential.

Indian leather industry off to good start

India's leather industry is enjoying a bonanza. The export boom has been striking, growing at 20 percent annually. The increase in value has been helped by a rising proportion of leather garments, footwear and other finished goods. Encouraged by this the Council for Leather Exports was set up in 1984 to modernise and promote the industry.

The main centre for the industry is Agra, more famous for the Taj Mahal. As the world's largest shoe-manufacturing centre it produces an estimated **80 000 pairs of footwear daily.**

India turns to sunflower to solve edible oil crisis

Sunflower is becoming India's answer to the edible oil crisis. Experts believe that sunflower can offer India a cheap source of cooking oil to feed the millions.

Trials have shown that a Russian variety can be grown in India in only 86-110 days, allowing two crops a year. The oil, rich in minerals, protein and vitamins, has non-cholesterol and anti-cholesterol properties. It also has medical uses and potential as fuel in diesel motors and for lighting.

New Delhi declares '91 as 'Visit India year' — Prakash Chandra

Elaborate plans are being drawn up to lure tourists to India in 1991. History, arts and culture, as well as handicrafts and picture-postcard sites, will still be the main attractions. But more stress will be placed on adventure sports, car rallies, river expeditions and wildlife.

India now earns about $A1.25 billion annually from tourism. In 1988 some 1.2 million tourists visited India. India hopes to follow Thailand's lead where tourism grew by 23.5 percent during its 'Visit Thailand' campaign.

Tourist-related industries are gearing up — Air India will increase its service by 50 percent and steps are being taken to improve land transport and a Tourism Finance Corporation established. High technology innovations are being introduced to improve communications and reservation links. More hotels, facilities and amenities are being built and the specialised training of staff is being undertaken at a chain of institutes.

Floating fish farms — Arjuna

India is embarking on its first floating fish farm and everybody is excited. While fish production–deep-sea or freshwater–is big investment business, the floating fish farm brings the industry within reach of small and marginal farmers.

Fish farms, of course are no big deal in countries like Indonesia or the Philippines where the industry ranges from the simple hook, line and sinker to the multi-hectared prawn farms in islands of Oceania.

But India's first fish farm has been launched in a sleepy town in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh and interest is high.

The project involves growing grass carp in specially-made 'cabins' that will float near the banks of lakes and other inland waters. Each pond or lake can house around 3000 fish cages belonging to different farmers. Farmers need only pay rent for the portion where their cage is moored. It is hoped that this new source of income will meet the nutritional needs of more than 100 million people who can barely afford to buy fish in the local market.

India not making the most of its marine resources — Prakesh Chandra

It was a boom year for Indian exporters of marine products in 1988-89, with earnings of over $A522 million. However, the demand for Indian prawns in Japan is declining. The big improver was the export of frozen squid to Spain, France and Greece. Another product that has found a ready market in Spain is whole, cleaned cuttlefish.

Authorities believe that with the rich seas around India it should rank third or fourth among exporters instead of its current eighth position. They also point to the need to concentrate on value addition by extra processing.

Computer fever grips Indians

Prakesh Chandra

There may be some 2.5 million jobs waiting for Indian computer professionals in the next five years. Already, over 75 000, students have joined computer training courses.

India's computer industry is booming. The authorities estimate there are over 80000 personal computers in use in India. Computer software companies forecast that software exports will reach $A1 312 million within the next ten years.

4—culture and change

Articles by Arjuna

Instant food, instant culture

Today, it seems that almost everybody and everything is in a hurry. It is 'instant' this, 'instant' that in just about every facet of living.

Now it is instant food. Everywhere I go, be it in Europe, the Americas, Africa or even in the Punjab region I discover that I can buy quick-cooked noodles, on-the-spot roasts, prepared salads — everything that could fill the stomach, drape the body or quench the thirst — in any part of town at any time.

My Indian friend called it 'instant culture'. He said that the Nirula chain of eateries, the largest in the country, sells more than 30 000 instant meals a day.

'It may be fish and chips, a hamburger, a toasted sandwich or a South India dish' a spokesperson of Nirula told me, 'but they keep office goers, students and shoppers stoked 'til the next burger or sandwich.'

But in spite of the Indians' preference for the instant meal, the American firm McDonald's, the originator of the Big Mac, didn't make it in India and folded up after only two years. Industry analysts told me that it was not only the price factor that contributed to McDonald'd downfall but that 'The Americans insisted on US-type kitchens and standardised meals in perfect hygienic conditions.

Despite warnings from Indian health officials that these meals lead to diseases like cardiac failure, cancer and obesity, the locals are turning a deaf ear. They continue to gobble up fries, fritters and fat in increasing volume. At last count, the business earned some 300 million rupees ($A26 million) annually.

In the land of rice and curry, fries and burgers and chicken delights are slowly changing an old way of life!

Fast food — with a difference

First it was the old-fashioned lunch-box that people used to carry to work containing their lunch — a sandwich perhaps, an apple or a banana, a soft drink or soup. Then came the caterer, someone who came to the office or construction site or factory and then sold food to the employees so that they did not have to leave the room for lunch

And when fast-food stores sprouted like mushrooms all over business centres and terminals, workers had only to step out a few metres from the office or commercial building to have their lunch.

But in Bombay, there is a unique food server who has been operating for decades. It is the ***dubbawalla,*** the carrier of lunchboxes, or ***dubba.*** The dubbawalla was invented by an irritated British company executive during the Raj. Tired of the bland stuff offered at the canteen, he offered a jobless Indian a monthly stipend to bring him his lunch cooked by the executive's wife to eat during his lunch break.

Today, that dubbawalla has grown into 2 500 food carriers who ensure that more than 100 000 office workers eat lunch prepared not by the office canteen but by someone back home.

India's 'sweet revolution' ethnic food fights back

We all know that food and eating habits differ with people and countries. What do you think most Indians in New Delhi are crazy about?

One would say it is the usual chili-flavours, or spicy green curry with coconut milk. Not on your life.

The natives here are now crazy about an ethnic food called ***gulab jaman***. It is a sweet made from curdled milk that literally takes the cake among Indian desserts. Cheese cake is no longer favourite. The popular gulab jaman, is now top of the menu in what is seen as a 'sweet revolution'.

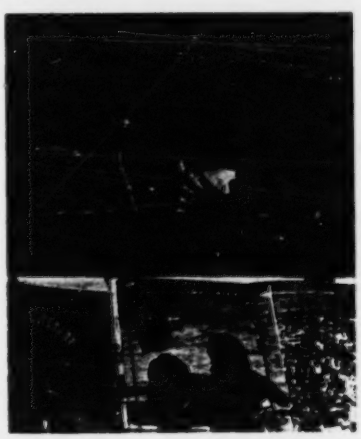
India's dying martial arts

Martial arts today are more entertainment than a deadly form of self-defence. This is because film makers cashing in on the appeal of karate, judoka and taekwando have glorified the daring and expertise of the athletes.

While these arts flourish all over the world, India's unique form of martial arts called *kalaripayat* is nearly extinct.

Kalaripayat, developed as early as the 5th century AD, makes use of cane sticks called *kettukari* and *cheruvadi*. These weapons make the sport more deadly, with even a glancing blow being potentially lethal.

The ancient, intricate art form is now only seen at festivals or staged for tourists. One of its foremost teachers believes that unless young people turn their interest from kung-fu, kalaripayat will disappear.



The anti-English brigade

During the time of the English Raj, everybody studied, learned or pretended to know how to speak and write English. The result was that English sort of became India's first language. Hindi and Bengali ran a poor second to the alien tongue. But today, there seems to be a mild backlash brewing. English is becoming a hated language.

Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state in North India has declared war on English. The anti-English brigade has announced that English will no longer be used as the official language.

They are not alone. An Indian friend told me that most of the anti-English sentiment comes from villages. If the move succeeds, more than 120 million people will no longer be able to send their children to schools to be taught in English. English is no longer a compulsory subject and can be learned only on an optional basis.However, there are problems as English has been a unifying factor. For instance, in offices in Delhi some members of staff cannot understand or even speak to each other in Hindi.

There is a fear that the North and South will be divided by language, culture, food and now lack of the one unifying factor —English.

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A China beyond politics

The People's Republic of China has been very much in the news during the last 18 months. China burst into the awareness of Australians and onto our television screens in a dramatic way when student protests were broken up by the army. The events became known as the 'Beijing massacre'.

Since those days of June 1989 debate has gone on about the accuracy of the reporting we received at the time. More recently we have seen debate as to whether Chinese students should be granted permanent residence status. One could easily be forgiven for thinking that China was some vast and monstrous place — a land without kind human feelings. It is obvious that the media has a role to play in bringing to our attention things which we need to know. There is much more to China than the images brought to us by television news reports. It is this other China which we will be considering.

China has been a mysterious unknown land for us for a long time. Partly this was a result of China's policy of resisting Western influence and partly because the West, and in particular Australia, was a little uneasy about the proximity of this Asian giant. Australia, having been a British colony at the tip of Asia, often viewed its Asian neighbours with just a little distrust. Life has shown that such attitudes serve no good purpose and many now actively seek to learn about our neighbours.

China is a land of rich cultural history. It has a culture which has been growing for thousands of years. Thousands of years ago China had a highly organised system of government, science, medicine, arts and learning. The Chinese invented gunpowder, used rockets and had considered ways of developing powered flight.

Chinese government was highly structured with a series of dynasties and an emperor at its head. Equally highly structured bureaucracies based on national examinations developed at an early stage.

Things began to change for the Chinese in the early 1800s with a push by the British into the region. The introduction of opium and its massive distribution throughout the country and foreign domination were among causes which saw traditional life disintegrate. With the establishment of a republic under the leadership of the nationalist Kuomintang came a major shift for China. The rule by emperors, which had marked China's development for centuries ended. The following years were ones of occupation by the Japanese army, wars between the nationalists and the rising Chinese communists and times of acute hardship. The victory of the communists in 1949 saw China in a mess. Cultural traditions were deeply ingrained, but the country was a far cry from the highly developed nation it had once been. China had become impoverished and backward with a massive population beset with problems of illiteracy and desperate poverty.

The years since then have seen big improvements in the well-being of the people in many ways. Some would argue that these developments have come at the cost of basic freedoms of the people, but others would maintain that there was never real freedom for the destitute and that the gains have been more than worth the sacrifices.

Today China faces an issue which is more pressing than whether or not ideas of democracy are introduced. It is the problem of population. China's 1.1 billion people represents more than 20 percent of the world's population. They are fed from just seven percent of the world's arable land. The policies of population control, or the 'one child policy' are proving a success. For China's sake these policies must work. Questions of how the country is to be organised and run become secondary to this most burning issue and go far beyond its borders. The world's population is growing at an alarming rate. China has, in many ways, shown the way.

The world faces a great many difficulties and crises in the coming years. We hear much of the problems of maintaining an ecological balance and of saving our planet from misuse. The problem of the growing population of the planet is another major question which needs to be answered quickly if the global population boom is not to create problems which would overshadow all others.

China, as the country with the biggest population in the world, is central to this question of population. How China manages to cope with its massive population and how well it manages to bring its population growth under control becomes vital, not just for China itself, but for the entire planet.

In the first years after the formation of the People's Republic of China, population growth was not seen as a very important question. In 1953 there were 582 million people living in China. By April, 1989, that figure has risen to 1.1 billion. As the 1970s began the Chinese government sought to find ways of slowing its population growth rates. Various plans were considered and in 1978 the 'one child policy' was introduced.

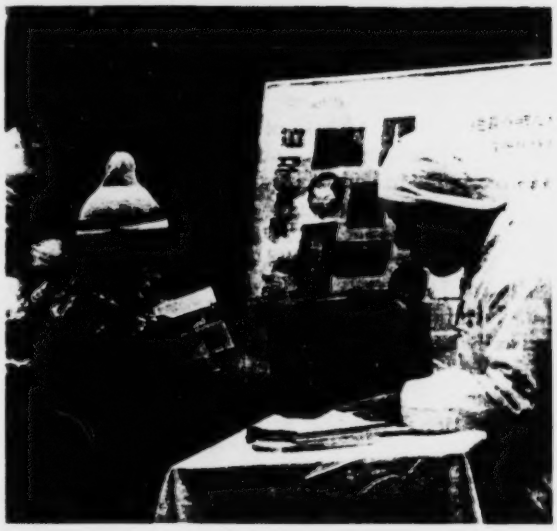
The massive numbers of Chinese can be shown by a statement made by the State Statistical Bureau in Beijing. It states that if the Chinese people formed a line along the equator and joined hands they would go around the world 43 times. Today about one in every five people on earth live in China. It has just seven percent of the arable land in the world. The population growth simply had to be halted. The policy has been quite successful. In the early 1970s the growth rate was 2.8 percent. By the early 1980s the figure stood at 1.23 percent each year.

At first the government was quite strict in the ways it enforced this policy. Those who ignored the campaign and chose to have more than one child were often fined and subjected to social criticism at work and in their community. Those couples who adopted the 'one child policy' and limited their families to just one baby were rewarded. They received substantial pay rises, longer maternity leave, better housing and better educational opportunities for their child. According to all reports the best 'enforcer' was education and people have responded to the government's campaign quite enthusiastically.

In the countryside the one-child policy has not been nearly as successful as in the cities. Still, even there it has led to a big drop in the rate of population growth. Ethnic minority groups have not been subject to the policy and larger families are still normal in isolated areas of China.

The significance of the 'one child policy' becomes even more obvious when the world's population is looked at even briefly. In July 1988 the population of the planet reached the five billion mark. The total means that today there are more people living on earth than in all previous centuries added together. The UN Population Fund had estimated that the world population would stabilise at 10 billion by the end of the next century. They have been forced to make a new prediction of 14 billion people. India, with 850 million people will, by about the year 2020, become the world's most heavily populated country.

The success of China's population control measures have been considerable. For a population to simply maintain itself, an average family can include just 2.18 children. This means that the population will not grow but simply replace those who die. China has reached a figure of 1.23 percent. If this keeps up the actual population size will slowly halt and eventually reduce. If we stop and consider that every day there are tens of thousands of children who die from hunger and poverty and that the world's population is expected to nearly triple in the next hundred years, then actions such as China's become even more important.



Children in any society are a precious commodity. It's such an obvious thing to say. Chinese society has, like any other, generally revolved around its children. In traditional Chinese society the birth of a child was always a time of great rejoicing, or at least it was if the child was male. China, as a traditionally rural country, prized male children as future providers for the older members of the family and to maintain the family name. The new China has to some extent overcome these old customs and children are all considered precious.

The fact that the Chinese government has adopted the 'one child policy' has meant that this precious commodity has become even more precious. One of the more positive aspects of life in China has been in relation to the way child health care has been organised. China, it must be remembered, is a poor country and is very much a developing country. However, the network of health care, especially for children, is quite impressive.

It all begins with the early stages of pregnancy where the mother-to-be is given constant check-ups and extensive reading lists on how best to care for her unborn baby. Within 24 hours of the birth, the baby is given the first of a series of immunisations. As soon as mother and baby go home medical workers begin regular visits to check on both the new baby and mother.

Children under the age of 12 months are given full examinations every three months. From age one to three the check-ups are every six months and four to seven year olds are checked on annually. Neighbourhood committees publicise the importance of local outpatient clinics which keep an eye on child health issues.

China operates on the principle that every adult should have the right to work and as a result most mothers in China also go to work. In many factories and workplaces there are creches for younger children where they are looked after while their parents are at work. The health scheme is, apparently, quite flexible. Should problems of work mean that parents are unable to take proper care for a child for a short period of time, then it is common for the child to be sent to stay with relatives — most often with grandparents. In these temporary absences from home, the child's medical records are simply sent on to the region where he or she will be staying and the health care system just continues as before.

Now none of this might sound all that out of the ordinary. Children should be given the best possible medical care. What does make it just a little bit special, however, is that China is in most ways a developing, or third world country. In the early 1950s the infant mortality rate was an extremely high 200 per 1 000 births. The figure today is 44 per 1 000 births. There is still a long way to go but the distance travelled has been considerable in this regard.

A toy-makers paradise

One by-product of the 'one child policy' is a steadily rising standard of living for the smaller families in China. Parents who adopt the new government policy are being given all sorts of financial rewards. Much of the extra incomes are being spent on children. Toys sales are expanding at a very rapid rate.

There is a potential toy buying market of some 350 million Chinese children. The amount spent on toys has risen by 400 percent in the past 10 years. There are more than 2 000 toy factories and about 200 000 workers churning out toys for these 350 million Chinese children. Parents seem happy to spend more and more on their only child which must make the toy stores about as pleased as the children themselves.

The philosophy of tradition

Because China is a country following a socialist path of development and having a communist party in power, traditional religious beliefs have been discouraged. However, Taoism, as the major religion in China along with Buddhism, has not only survived but in recent years has actually begun to grow in importance. *Asia Wise* referred to the Chinese religion of Taoism in its examination of China in issue nine, 1990. However, it is not only Taoism which developed in China. The ancient philosophy of Confucianism was also born in China.

Confucius was born in 551BC and died in 479BC. During his lifetime he gave shape to a brand of philosophy which later became known as Confucianism. The central belief in Confucianism is that human beings should live in harmony with each other. Harmony, according to Confucius, can only exist when everyone behaves properly. His main principles of conduct are:

Li which means an ideal standard of conduct — doing the right thing at the right time in the right place. It includes the use of ritual and courtesy to show respect, sympathy or sorrow when dealing with others;

Ren which means goodness and love for others;

I which means righteousness, honesty and a sense of duty to other human beings; and

Filial piety which means being loving, respectful and obedient to your parents, grandparents as well as to dead ancestors.

Confucius believed that society would benefit if everybody knew his or her place in it. A set of relationships was developed which explained what role each person had to another — between the ruler and subject, father and son, older brother and younger brother, husband and wife and between older friend and younger friend.

Confucianism promoted the idea that naturally intelligent people were superior and that those who were able to learn were next on the list of merit and so on. As his ideas later became the official state philosophy, it is not surprising that education for all positions of authority in China became most important. A system of examinations was introduced across the country. This examination system decided who were to become government officials.

Central to the whole idea of Confucianism is that a quite rigid structure should exist in society with loyalty and respect for people considered to be in a superior position. The position of women in Confucian society was particularly difficult. The role of a wife in Confucian society was to bear sons. Daughters were regarded as being of little value. She must be obedient to her husband and her mother-in-law. Women were not allowed to sit the examinations or to become officials.

The ideas of Confucianism spread widely throughout Asia. From China, it was exported to Korea in the first century. It was also introduced to Japan in the seventh century and was influencing Vietnamese life as early as the third century BC.

Today the influence of Confucian thought has diminished to a very great extent. The Chinese government abolished it as a state philosophy in 1912 when the country became a republic. This was a fairly obvious move as loyalty to a structure leading up to the emperor was central to both Confucianism and to the old Chinese order. During the 1920s and 1930s Chinese intellectuals urged for a strong campaign against Confucianism as it was seen as getting in the way of much needed modernisation. When the communists came to power in 1949, they continued to struggle against this once dominant philosophy.

Folk art in China

Fragrant sachets

Folk art often has its beginnings in religious ceremonies, even though the people may no longer follow the faith which first led to the folk art. An example of this can be found in Qingyang in eastern Gansu Province in China. People in this area have traditionally worn fragrant sachets during the Dragon Boat Festival, held on the fifth day of the fifth month of the Chinese lunar calendar.

The people originally began wearing these sachets on festival days to ward off diseases and dangerous creatures such as spiders, snakes, lizards, centipedes and scorpions. They became a symbol of good fortune and long life and were used as tokens of love by young people. Today they are still used, but more as amusement than to keep away 'evil' things.

The sachets are traditionally made by hand by women in rural areas and are shaped to represent different plants or animals. The pieces of brightly coloured fabric are filled with aromatic herbs and grasses. Larger versions are hung over the doorways of the homes of newly-weds. The religious significance may be long forgotten except to academics who make a study of such things, but the people, on festive occasions, still make a fuss about the little sachets.

Face designs

The art of *shehuo* face design is another folk art which is kept alive in China in the Baoji area in Shaanxi Province. In ancient times shehuo was a sort of variety show performed during festivals and religious ceremonies. It included music, dragon and lion dances, dances by sorcerers and short theatrical pieces. It is still popular although today is purely for entertainment and has no religious significance.

Face design in shehuo is an art that uses very exaggerated make-up and dates back for many centuries when it was first used as a way of driving out demons. Shehuo performers use these masks or make-up to show different aspects of their character and the social status of the character they portray. Different colours symbolise different characters. Red is for loyalty, white is for craftiness, black is for honesty, yellow is for savagery, blue is for ferocity, green is for gallantry and gold and silver are for deity and divinity.

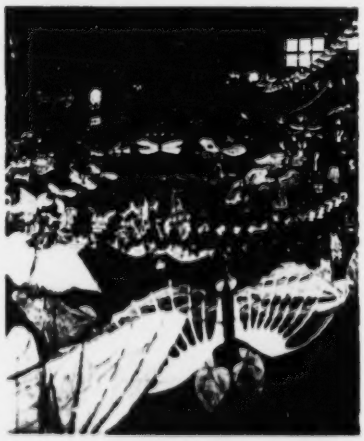
Shehuo shows are still popular and are performed on festive occasions and at social gatherings and fairs. The most elaborate of these take place during the Spring Festival in February.

Kites

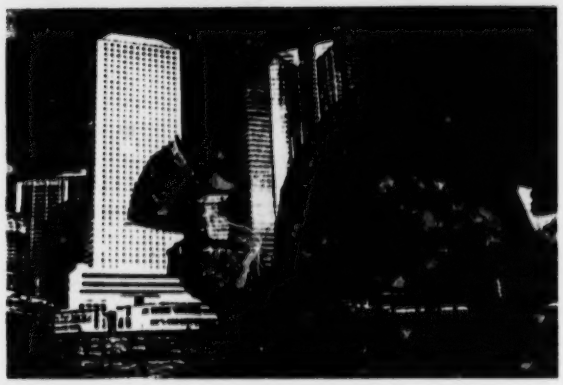
China is home to a great many folk art-forms, but none is more 'Chinese' than the art of kite making and flying. China is the birthplace of kites and they have been used for thousands of years. In fact the world's first aircraft were kites and rockets from China. Mozi, a Chinese philosopher, made a wooden bird and managed to fly it more than 2 000 years ago. He believed that if some form of motor could be attached then people could be carried as well.

In the second century BC kites were being used by the military for reconnaissance purposes and to send messages.

Kites today are much more peaceful and have become a central part of many Chinese festivals and are known both for their performance in flight and for their beauty.



Hong Kong and its future



One issue which has both captured headlines in the past couple of years and which has been causing more than a few headaches for many Hong Kong business people has been the return of Hong Kong to Chinese control in 1997.

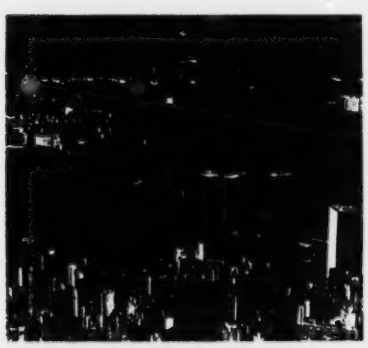
Hong Kong is currently a British colony and has been under British control since 1842. In 1898 Britain negotiated a 99 year lease of additional territory on the Chinese mainland. This lease will expire in 1997. The Chinese have never accepted the lease as valid claiming that the signing was forced on a seriously weakened China by a stronger power.

What is causing the headaches in some business circles is that China is a socialist country and Hong Kong has developed as a major port and financial centre and is very much a capitalist stronghold. An agreement on the future of Hong Kong was reached in late 1984. China will again assume control on 1 July 1997 and Hong Kong will become a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China. The SAR will keep its own government and will basically look after its own affairs, with the exception of defence and foreign affairs questions. Hong Kong's social and economic life is to remain unchanged for the next 50 years. The Chinese government refer to this method of approach as being 'one country — two systems'.

The population of the British colony is currently just over 5.7 million. Well over 95 percent of these people are Chinese, although many hold British citizenship. A row recently erupted when the British government put rigid limits on the numbers of Hong Hong citizens it would accept after the colony returns to Chinese control in 1997.

The population of Hong Kong grew rapidly after the Chinese revolution when a great many refugees fled to the British colony. More recently the island has seen many thousands of Vietnamese refugees arrive. These Vietnamese 'boat people' are kept in enclosed camps and are being slowly sent back to Vietnam as they do not qualify as political refugees but are referred to as either illegal immigrants or economic refugees.

As 1997 draws near more Hong Kong residents are seeking new homes in many countries, including Australia. For millions of ordinary Chinese living in Hong Kong life will go on as before. They do not have the skills to be taken up as business migrants in Australia, Canada or any of the other countries being looked at by wealthier Hong Kong residents.



Taiwan — the 'other 'China

In 1949, as Mao Zedong's victorious forces swept to power in China, their opponents, the Kuomintang (KMT) fled to the island of Taiwan still claiming to be the government of the Republic of China or Nationalist China as it came to be known. For years the Taiwanese maintained the sole right to be considered the government of China and vowed to return to mainland China and remove the communists from power.

During the first decades of its existence, the KMT government enjoyed considerable international recognition but this has diminished until today the People's Republic of China is almost universally recognised as the government of China.

Since 1981, the PRC has pursued a policy of peaceful reunification with Taiwan. They have offered a negotiated settlement along the lines of what the Chinese describe as the 'one country — two systems' approach. This policy would allow Taiwan to effectively run its own economy and to remain capitalist while China itself follows a socialist form of development.

Lee Teng-hui, Tiawan's president, recently made a statement on relations between the two 'Chinas' saying that he wants to 'establish communications on an equal basis and completely open up academic, cultural and economic exchanges' with the PRC.

While the two states are still far from unified in all matters there are signs of a growing relationship with more exchanges and tourism between the two 'countries'.

Mr Hu's prosperous store

There is a simple sign on a wall in Beijing which reads 'Mr Hu's prosperous store'. It is, perhaps the most successful herbal medicine store in China. It is both a museum and a working chemist shop with about 1 300 people visiting it every day. Most of the visitors are customers and not tourists visiting just another museum.

The store opened in 1874 and is still very much a going concern. After the revolution the store became a state run concern but the remedies did not change. If anyone thought that preparing herbal remedies was a simple process then it might be best to think again. The raw herbs are first hand picked, then washed, sliced or ground. After that they may be soaked, boiled, steamed, baked, filtered, mixed, shaped or any combination of these processes, depending on the required result.

The factory attached to the shop produces more than 400 medicines in 14 different forms, including pills, capsules, powders, plasters, liquids and many more. More than 2 000 different herbs and minerals are used. There is a huge staff of 840 workers including 170 pharmacists and technicians all churning out these herbal cures. But is it effective? The citizens of Beijing certainly think so and happily contribute to the sales figure of $14.7million a year. Mr Hu, who first set up shop in 1874 would agree that his little shop has indeed become prosperous.

Leeches — the surgeon's friend

Chinese medicine has for years seen a successful blending of ancient traditional remedies and the most modern medical practices available. The use of acupuncture needles in medicine has been very much a part of the doctor's bag of tricks for centuries in China. Today it is a recognised part of medical treatment in just about all countries.

In the early 1960s Chinese doctors led the world in developing ways of replacing severed fingers, using the most modern techniques available. An on-going problem was, however, that of blood clots after the operation. Blood vessels in fingers are very small and virtually impossible for the doctor to find and stitch. All sorts of approaches were made to ease these difficulties because after successful surgery the patient would then quickly lose the use of the replaced finger because the blood failed to flow properly.

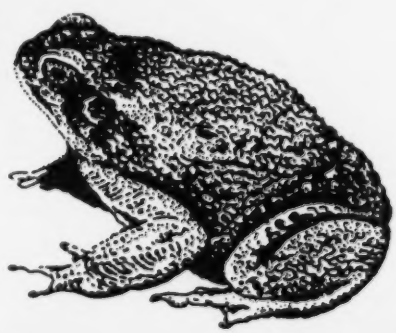
The solution to the problem was really quite close at hand all the time. The saviour was the leech. Popular modern medicine had given up on leeches long ago. Once they were used for just about every known complaint — often with little success. However, the blood sucking nature of the leech was just what the doctor ordered. The leeches have an anti-blood-clotting element which is stronger than anything the laboratory can produce.

After experimenting on rats, Chinese doctors moved on to human patients with reportedly complete success.

Toads as export earners

Just what China and the cane toad have in common may not be obvious at first but what we consider a pest might soon become a valuable export commodity. Cane toad venom is used in traditional Chinese medicine in anaesthesia for operations and in treating a range of complaints including heart disease, tuberculosis and cancer.

The venom from 1 000 live toads is being collected and sent to China for testing. That number of toads produces 100g of venom. If the tests are positive, then the people of Brisbane might yet be heaping praise on the cane toad instead of wringing their hands at how to get rid of the 'pests'.



Mountain climbers are a hardy breed. The old question why did you climb it and the equally well known answer, because it was there, has long been used to sum up the particular style of thinking of the adventurous climber. When relations between China and the USA were at their best, a joint team of six mountaineers headed off to tackle the tallest peak in Antarctica.

The Chinese team included an expert mountaineer, a scientist and the only woman to successfully scale the formidable Vinson Massif. The mountain is said to be the second toughest to climb, after Mt Everest. The team reached their base camp which was itself 2 300 metres above sea level and prepared themselves for the assault on the snowy peak.

The summit of the mountain which was their target was invisible at the time — lost in cloud. Conditions for mountain climbing are so poor in this part of the world that any attempt can only be made during a short three week period during the year. As it was, conditions at their base camp were hardly luxurious. The temperature when they arrived was minus 40 degrees. That may not mean a lot but imagine not being able to finish a cup of tea or a hot meal before it freezes solid and you will get an idea of just how tough these conditions are.

However, mountain climbers are not put off by a little chill and they set off and successfully got to the top of Vinson Massif — all 5 100 metres of it.

In the cabbage patch

As China prepared for its last winter, calls went out across the land for people to plant more cabbages. The reasons were straightforward enough. The humble cabbage is a hardy customer and well suited for harsh winter climates. The call was answered and millions of Chinese set to and began producing mountains of cabbages.

The authorities were well pleased. Such an appeal and its response showed that the Chinese way of urging the people to rally around a particular line of thought was still working. Unfortunately there was a catch. The people responded too well and soon the whole country was swamped by the vegetable. In Beijing alone there were more than 300 000 tonnes delivered. It was the same everywhere.

Another call went out to the Chinese. This time it was that people should show their patriotism by buying up big. Every family was urged to buy 50kg of cabbages. Industriousness has long been an acknowledged feature of the Chinese but soon the possible ways of using up their cabbages were exhausted, as was their taste for cabbage soup, pickled cabbage or any other recipe using cabbage in it. The appeals became more desperate. Factories, hotels, restaurants, schools, colleges, offices were all asked to buy more and more cabbage until the end of the season came around and the nightmare could be ended.

Martial arts star

The words martial arts and China seem to fit together. *Wushu*, as it is called in China is extremely popular and practised by millions. It is perhaps not all that surprising then to learn of Huang Shaosong, who is quite a celebrity in China because of his exceptional talents as an exponent of wushu.

He first attracted attention when only five years old. He was able to stretch a chest expander 25 times. He was taken to a famous Chinese wushu expert, Xu Jinsheng, one of the few in China who is able to perform 'two-finger meditation'. This involves completing a handstand supported only by the index and middle finger of one hand. The young student of martial arts has managed to develop the necessary skills to perform this seemingly impossible feat.

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Other Chinese images

To say that China has been very much in the news in recent times would be to state the obvious. The events of last June when the government used the army to end student protests and the outcry which followed has dominated just about all reporting from China. It is something of a shame that so much time has been spent by so many reporters and film crews in presenting this view of China without getting down to looking at China in a wider sense.

What happened in June was, of course, big news. However, there is much more to this fascinating Asian giant than protests and demonstrations and military crackdowns. *Asia Wise*, has deliberately ignored those images of China which the media has focused on. Rather we shall look at some of the other images of China — its traditions as well as how it is trying to come to terms with the pressing problems of population and survival which in many ways transcend questions of ideology.

However, politics can never be far away when looking at a nation like China and at its relations with neighbours. The future of Hong Kong and Taiwan are inevitably linked to that of China. Relations between China and Taiwan have for decades been strained and possibly more accurately described as hostile. Taiwan, it must be remembered represents the defeated Kuomintang forces, driven out of mainland China by the communists in 1949. The fact that today, relations are improving between these two rivals, is an indication that sense may yet prevail.

The situation in the British colony of Hong Kong will certainly remain 'interesting' for some time to come as the island prepares to return to Chinese control in 1997. Alarm bells have been sounding for some time as business people look to secure futures in other lands. They remain fearful about the future. The reality, for hundreds of thousands of poor Hong Kong residents, is, of course, that life will go on very much as before once the Chinese assume control. It would be unlikely that these people would be welcomed by other countries as immigrants.

Despite these political and economic shifts in thinking and policy among many, the most pressing question for the Chinese revolves around how well they resolve the question of population control. It is a question which makes all others pale into insignificance and which will, ultimately, affect us all.

Original expectations for world population predicted that the total world population would stabilise at about 10 billion by the end of the next century. This figure has since been revised to indicate that the planet would be home to 14 billion people by the end of the 21st century. Population controls, then, assume a most acute significance. China, with a population in excess of 1.1 billion people must be seen as central to the hopes of the world in maintaining stable population levels. The good news is that China's 'one child policy' has generally been a success.

During the first years after the communists assumed control of China, the question of population was hardly a burning one. The millions of Chinese were Mao Zedong's major resource as the nation began the daunting task of development. Life has decreed that in more recent decades other tasks diminish in importance when placed alongside the spiralling population figures. The significance of China's efforts to limit its population growth is most obvious when one considers that the actual rate of growth per year today stands at 1.23 percent. This is well below the rate of 2.18 children per couple rate which is required for simple population replacement.

As world population figures rise and with the potential for disaster that this could spell, many now say that China's resolute efforts may be a turning point in the campaign against global population crises. Other voices have been heard raising questions of morality. They are critical that enforced 'family planning' methods and wide scale abortion raise moral and ethical questions which need to be addressed.

With over 20 percent of the world's population and just seven percent of the total arable land on the planet, the Chinese have few options but to tackle these questions head on. The media of the world might, in their focus on China, pay some attention to these pressing issues, but they are not the stuff of headlines. Political events provide better pictures.

For your information

ASIAN STUDIES – LANGUAGES data base

For further information please contact
Gay Ziegler, Information Services, CRS
Department of Education & the Arts
71 Letitia St. Hobart, TAS 7000 (002) 307303

Studies of Asia and Asian languages in Australia are about to receive a significant boost with the establishment of a database of curriculum information, resources and practitioners.

Australian governments, working together since 1987 on issues raised by the National Strategy for the Study of Asia in Australia, believe that this is a major step in redressing some of the disadvantages created by two centuries of Australian self-delusion that we were not a part of the Asian region.

In March 1990, the Curriculum Corporation invited Australian education systems to submit proposals for the management of a project to establish a Studies of Asia Information Service.

The Tasmanian Department of Education and the Arts made the successful submission, and now is engaged in creating two data subsets on ASCIS (the Australian Schools Cataloguing Information Service). One of these subsets contains records supporting teaching about Asia; the other relates to the teaching of Asian languages.

What will be included?

The data subsets will include a variety of items:

- classroom materials
- materials for teacher-use
- print, video and computer materials, and items of combined formats
- commercially-developed materials
- government materials

Selection criteria for inclusion of items in the databases will be developed in co-operation with practising classroom teachers, but will include curriculum relevance, authoritativeness, currency, and appropriateness of language and format.

Who will participate?

The thousands of classroom teachers throughout Australia who use Asia Wise in teaching about Asia and Asian languages (Indonesian, Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, Japanese, Thai) will be invited to participate in the formation of these data subsets.

Many other groups will also be consulted, including systemic education authorities, government and non-government agencies, Asian Studies Council project groups, relevant professional teacher associations, key universities with Asian Studies/Asian Language centres, member nations of the Pacific Circle Consortium, and community schools and organisations.

Who will benefit?

Some 2 500 secondary schools and colleges and 7 000 primary schools (state and non-state) throughout Australia.

Chinese resources from other issues

Overview of Asia, Issue 1, 1989

- *Chinese rock*

Food and agriculture, Issue 4, 1989

- *Rice reform in China*
- *Melbourne's Chinatown*

Asian Australians, Issue 6, 1989

- *Asian Australians – so what's new?*

China, Issue 9, 1989

- *The pain of the giant's growth*
- *Populate and perish*
- *A woman's place is ...?*
- *Tiananmen – a backdrop to history*
- *Eat at Mao's family restaurant*
- *Along the Silk Road*
- *Getting to know you*
  — Australians in China
  — And Chinese in Australia
- *Growing up in China*
- *China finds 'The Way'*
- *Spinning a yarn*
- *Healthy clothes*
- *It's better by bike*

Worksheets, Issue 9, 1989 & Workbook number one

- *Map exercise*
- *China datafile*
- *Comparing Australia and China*
  — The land and the people
- *Comparing Australia and China*
  — Trade and tourism
- *Language worksheet*
  — Be a detective – read this Chinese

Festivals and leisure, Issue 10, 1989

- *A happy Asian New Year*
- *Spring is in the air*

Women in Asia, Issue 3, 1990

- *Chinese woman reaches for the sky*

Asia Wise exploring social, political and environmental issues in Asia

- *Politics and change*

China in change, A history of turmoil
A rural revolution, Steps forward and backward, The search for better ways.
The politics of population

- *Youth in change*

A merging of cultures

- *Tradition and change*

People can be flexible, A shrinking world

SHADOW PLAY

Attention all teachers of Australian studies, social studies, Australian history and Asian studies subjects!
An invaluable resource book will soon be coming your way from the Curriculum Resources Section of the Department of Education & The Arts, Tasmania.

Shadow Play presents a detailed historical background to the events featured in the ABC's award winning TV series of 1989. It traces the many dramatic changes to Australia's relations with neighbouring South-east Asian and Pacific countries and peoples since the first white settlement.
The 96 page book has five chapters dealing with:

- Australia's regional associations from 1788 to the present day;
- Australia's dealings with Chinese sojourners and immigrants and, more recently, with the People's Republic;
- Changes and crises in Australia's dealings with Japan;
- Australia's varied approach to its closest neighbour, Indonesia; and
- The role of successive Australian governments in the Vietnam War and in the subsequent refugee crises.

Each chapter is written by a distinguished Australian expert in the particular field. Michael Dugan, a former publications editor for the Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs and author of several books on immigration, edited the book and wrote its introductory first chapter.

Morag Loh – well known for her work on oral history, the migrant experience and Australia-China relations – wrote the chapter on China. Gavan McCormack, Professor of East Asian Studies at the Australian National University provided the chapter on Japan.

The Indonesian section was written by Richard Chauvel a specialist in Indonesian history and politics. Nancy Viviani, who wrote the final chapter on Indo-China, is currently Professor of Political Science and Head of the Political Science Department at the Australian National University. She is the author of a number of books and papers dealing with issues canvassed in her chapter.

Controversial issues

Shadow Play investigates large issues of foreign policy over the last 200 years and certainly doesn't shrink from controversy. You will find answers to and opinion on questions such as:

- How much was Australia to blame for the conflict with Japan during World War 2?
- Why have Chinese immigrants found it difficult to be accepted as part of Australian society?
- Has Australia's policy on Indo-Chinese refugees created a more just or a more divided society?
- Why did the Indonesian government see the Australian people as its allies in the 1950s and why have relations between Australia and Indonesia occasionally soured in recent times?

And more mysterious issues such as:

- Why was Queensland opposed to restrictions on non white immigration in the nineteenth century?
- Why were looks all that counted for immigrating Chinese last century?
- How far was Australia a Dutch penal colony in the early 1940s?
- Was Malcolm Fraser more 'pro Vietnam' than Gough Whitlam?
- Was the Cowra breakout mass suicide or massacre?

Inexcusable

This country has reached a time in its history where it is inexcusable for schools to sidestep discussion of issues like these. Our present and future relations with our neighbours are shaped by the events which *Shadow Play* looks at. And you won't find a better argued or more clearly focused account of them!

As examples, how much of the present concern over Japanese ownership of Australian real estate has its roots in memories of the 1939-45 war? Why do China-Japan trade relations depend so much on what Japanese schoolbooks say about 'Manchukuo' or Nanking? Why do Indonesian officials sometimes accuse Australians who are critical of their country's system of government of not understanding Indonesian culture?

The answer to all these contemporary problems lies in these countries' history. Their history is immensely important to them and should be to us since our role in their history determines much of what they think of us as a nation and as people.

Today's students need Shadow Play for tomorrow's world!

For enquiries contact — Information Services, Curriculum Resources Section, 71 Letitia Street, Hobart, Tasmania, 7000 Telephone (002) 307977 Fax (002) 342735

The cost of living

	consumer spending (per capita – $A)	food	housing	clothing	transport
Australia	*$9 163*	*20.8%*	*21.9%*	*6.2%*	*13.4%*
Bangladesh	*$187*	*63.3%*	*8.8%*	*5.9%*	*0.9%*
China	*$175*	*55.2%*	*14.5%*	*8.6%*	*N/A*
Hong Kong	*$6 350*	*18.3%*	*15.6%*	*20.0%*	*8.1%*
India	*$250*	*54.8%*	*2.7%*	*10.1%*	*11.8%*
Indonesia	*$312*	*61.2%*	*17.4%*	*4.9%*	*N/A*
Japan	*$14 112*	*26.8%*	*4.7%*	*7.1%*	*9.0%*
Malaysia	*$1 137*	*41.1%*	*18.2%*	*4.7%*	*16.6%*
Nepal	*$150*	*57.4%*	*11.4%*	*10.5%*	*2.1%*
North Korea	*N/A*	*46.5%*	*0.6%*	*29.9%*	*N/A*
Pakistan	*$312*	*48.6%*	*11.2%*	*7.5%*	*4.5%*
Philippines	*$550*	*54.0%*	*N/A*	*6.5%*	*3.1%*
Singapore	*$4 500*	*23.0%*	*10.3%*	*8.7%*	*12.2%*
South Korea	*$1 900*	*34.8%*	*4.3%*	*7.8%*	*6.6%*
Sri Lanka	*$387*	*49.7%*	*2.8%*	*7.1%*	*16.4%*
Thailand	*$637*	*37.4%*	*23.1%*	*6.4%*	*10.7%*

The cost of supporting a family varies widely from country to country. *ASIAWEEK* prepared this table to illustrate the average amount of money per person spent on basic needs, and the percentage that goes towards food, housing, clothing and transport.

a) Construct graphs to illustrate some aspects of consumer spending.

b) Make lists of the countries in ranked order of the amount spent per capita on consumer items — eg. on total consumer spending, food, housing, clothing and transport.

c) Compare the rank order of countries to see if there is a connection between different items — eg. is there a connection between total spending and the amount spent of food or on housing.

d) *The Australian Yearbook*, published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, includes figures on Average Weekly Household Expenditure. Check these statistics for a further breakdown on expenditure on commodities and services. What is the average percentage of expenditure on recreation, fuel & power and medical care and health expenditures?

	total pop 1988 (millions)	HDI rank
NEPAL	18.2	17
BANGLADESH	109.6	23
PAKISTAN	114.9	33
INDIA	818.8	37
INDONESIA	175.0	54
PHILIPPINES	59.5	65
THAILAND	54.1	78
SRI LANKA	16.8	83
CHINA	1104.0	86
NORTH KOREA	21.9	82
SOUTH KOREA	42.6	97
MALAYSIA	16.6	85
SINGAPORE	2.6	96
AUSTRALIA	16.4	124
HONG KONG	5.7	108
JAPAN	122.4	130

Asiaweek, 29 June, 1990

e) In Issue 7, 1990, page 2 a table was included that explained a new way of measuring a country's development. The Human Development Index ranking combines life expectancy, literacy and Gross Domestic Product to give a rough idea of how well people live. Refer to a copy of the table or to this simplified table to compare your lists of consumer spending rankings with total population and Human Development Index ranks (HDI).

Does there appear to be any connection between population numbers and percentage of consumer spending on food and clothing?

Does spending on housing increase with Human Development Index rankings?

Does there appear to be a link between spending on transport and HDI ranking?

f) Prepare graphs to show HDI rankings against spending on food, housing, clothing and spending.

Did you know?

1. *That China was the first country in the world to adopt the decimal system. As early as the fourth century BC the Chinese were using the system in practically the same way it is used today.*

Find out about Chinese units of measurement.
Research the use of the abacus in mathematics and commerce.

2. *That China issued the world's largest postage stamp. The stamp, issued in 1913 was 247.5mm long and 69.8mm wide. The first stamp China issued was printed in 1878 and featured a dragon's head.*

Research the introduction and use of stamps.
Find out about Chinese stamps in use today. Make a class collection and display of stamps from the countries of Asia.

3. *That China has the world's largest palace. The Palace Museum, originally known as the Forbidden City, is a group of palaces in the heart of Beijing. Started in 1406 in the Ming Dynasty it was completed 14 years later. Twenty-four emperors lived there over a span of 491 years. The ten metre wall and moat of the palace surrounds an area of 720 000 square metres consisting of 9 999 buildings and dozens of courtyards.*

Find out more about the Palace Museum and what it contains.
Make a time line showing the reigns of the 24 emperors who lived in the palace.
Read about or watch the movie of the life of Pu Yi, the Last Emperor.

4. *That the astronauts say the Great Wall of China is visible with the naked eye. The wall covers a total distance of 6 700k and the earliest parts date from 475-221 BC.*

Find out more about the Great Wall and map its location.
Make a display showing the Great Wall and other tourist attractions and destinations in China.
Prepare a costed itinerary for a class tour to China, include information about clothing, currency, transportation, accommodation, meals, time difference and festivals.
Here is some information about climate and useful words to help your planning.

Average Temperatures (Celsius)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beijing	-4	-2	4	13	20	25	26	25	20	13	4	-3
Shanghai	3	4	8	14	19	24	28	28	24	18	13	6
Guangzhou	14	15	18	22	26	27	29	29	27	24	20	15
Xian	-3	2	8	14	20	26	27	26	20	13	7	1
Wuhan	3	5	10	16	21	26	29	29	24	18	11	6
Chengdu	6	8	12	17	21	24	26	25	22	17	12	7
Guilin	8	9	13	18	24	26	29	28	26	21	15	10
Harbin	-20	-16	-5	6	15	20	23	22	15	6	-6	-16

Source — *How to tour China*, Xinhua Publishing House, China

Useful words

Ni hao	How are you? How do you do?
Xie xie	How's everything?
Fei chang gan xie	Thank you very much.
Bu yong xie	You are welcome.
Dui bu qi	I'm sorry. Excuse me.
Bu yao jin	It's OK.
Ganbei!	Cheers!
Tai hao le	Very good.
Zhong guo	China
Qing	Please
Jin lai	Come in.
Zai jian	Goodbye
Jiu ming!	Help!
Qing jiao jing cha	Call the police, please.

Materials review

Asia Teachers' Bulletin
2 June, 1990

This edition of the Asian Teachers' Association Bulletin is devoted to material dealing with Chinese culture. Prepared by Robyn Fugaccia the entire magazine is crammed with information, activities and illustrations about the beliefs and customs of the people of China.

Aspects dealt with include **religion, temples and shrines, popular household deities, the significance of the lotus flower, the Chinese New Year period, Fung Shui, ancestor worship, life after death, the eight immortals, the Chinese dragon, the clothes of the Last Emperor, symbolism in Chinese art and a profile of Qin Shihuang**.

For information about resources and membership details contact Asia Teachers Association
GPO Box 2393 Sydney 2001

China ABC

New World Press, Beijing, 1988, 238 pages
The aim of the handbook is to give up-to-date information about present-day China, as well as the nation's ancient cultural heritage.

The 58 concise articles do sacrifice detail for breadth; but this only makes the book more compatible with the general needs of typical high school students.

Expected **geographical, historical, political** and **social topics** are dealt with; as well as such diverse subjects as the **lunarsolar calendar, alcoholic beverages, traditional physical fitness exercises and, the game of 'go'. Over** 100 colour photos and appendages of special interest notes at the end of many articles, add variety and interest.

Do you know-

The word 'people'... refers to the working class, peasantry, petty bourgeoisie and the national bourgeoisie. This is the precise definition ?

The third largest country in the world, China has a land border of more than 20,000 kilometres and is bordered by twelve countries?

The Qinghai / Tibet plateau in the south west, is the world's highest?

The world's biggest postage stamp - 247.5mm long and 69.8mm wide was printed in China in 1913?

China is the country with the world's largest variety of birdlife?

China ABC is an extremely useful, practical book that should be apart of every high school library's China collection.

The Oxford Duden pictorial Chinese-English dictionary

(Simplified character edition) by Hingor Chung
The pictorial Chinese and English Dictionary with comprehensive indexes, in both Chinese and English, is designed to be used two ways – Chinese-English and English-Chinese. While there is a noticeable absence of verbs, adjectives, adverbs and conjunctions, there is an extensive range of objects all painstakingly illustrated in fine detail.

Opening the volume at any page would be an education even for the native speaker. There is a broad range of topics for the specialist and professionals; including the nursery, astronomy, edible fungi, navigation, jewellery and internal combustion engines. It claims to illustrate 28,000 objects on the basis that information can be conveyed more readily and clearly by pictures than by descriptions and explanations.

The Dictionary is a handy size, well bound with a plastic cover. However, for the beginner student studying Chinese, its use is limited. Not only is the Chinese script in simplified form, the print is minute and, as the text does not include PINYIN, one has to continually reach for another dictionary on the shelf to work out the pronunciation.

Clearly this dictionary has a valuable role – but for specialists, not translators.

60 scenic wonders in China

New World Press, Beijing, 1980
This book is a testimony to how much China values its tourism. It is filled with sketches, calligraphy and is an attractively-presented book. The sixty articles deal with the best locations from China's great number of scenic and historical areas. General descriptions, historical background, peculiar geographical conditions and folklore of each of the **'60 Wonders'** are examined. Long-established, renowned sites like **The Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, The Forbidden City, The Peking Man Site and Guilin and Others** are featured. However the book also provides intriguing detail about lesser known areas. A few examples are:
a) **Chengoe Mountain Resort** (North China) - where 'a vast expanse of lush green grass lies to the north of the lake area on which herds of deer used to graze and mongolian yurts were pitched midst ancient trees'.
b) **Qufu - Birthplace of Confucius** (East China) - where ' there are 53 magnificent gateways and numerous halls, pavilions and shrines.
c) **Tibet's Ice Forests** (South China) - where 'ice forests are made up of tower-like ice and snow formations known as *Seracs* ... it is the world's most developed and best preserved ice and snow structure'.
d) **Harbin on the Sungari** (North-East China) - where it is so cold that 'milk is sold in bricks and pears are marketed frozen'.

60 Scenic Wonders would make an *excellent* resource for a student project study of Chinese geography and for a prospective tourist to the country.

Reviews prepared by Steve Tolbert
Asian studies consultant, Tasmania

China in focus — Coping with new social problems

Beijing Review, 90 Pages
This is a very informative book for China enthusiasts. In the introduction it notes that:

'China still faces enormous difficulties in its efforts to attain the goals set for the end of 20th century. These include quadrupling the 1980 total industrial and agricultural output values, raising people's living standards, improving people's cultural and educational levels and popularizing a nine year compulsory education system throughout the country. Not only must the Chinese people wipe out illiteracy and remnants of feudal thinking, but they also have to deal with the many contradictions arising from socialist construction.'

Very candid chapters follow and deal with the questions of:
a) **Are all only children spoiled?** (There are 35 million only children in mainland China now and there is concern about how to deal with 'the spoiled brat'.)
b) **Problem of an aging population**
c) **Love, marriage and other questions** (Some of the 'other questions' note how methods of finding partners are changing and ponder on whether women's liberation is out-of-date.)
d) **The priority of wiping out illiteracy**
e) **Overcrowded cities** (Including traffic jams in Beijing; why public buses are so packed and the question of taxi use.)

For the teacher/student/tourist who is interested in Chinese social concerns, ***Coping with new social problems*** **is** a compact, concise look at how Chinese view their problems.

The China — Facts and Figures

This series covers every aspect of China ranging from history, culture, economics, religion, daily life, to science, diplomacy, politics, arts, literature and child care. The three to be reviewed are ***Chinese cuisine, Chinese medicine*** **and** ***China's folk festivals.***

Chinese cuisine (20 pages)
This booklet is divided into sections on history; four major regional cuisines, the art of cooking and sample recipes.
The art of preparing food in China dates back several thousand years. The earliest cookbook in the world was circulated in China about fifteen hundred years ago.
The four major regional cuisines are:
a) light, tasty **Shandong** cuisine from the Yellow River Valley;
b) Fiery **Sichuan** dishes from the upper reaches of the Yangtze River;
c) **Jiangju-Zhejiang** cuisine with such renowned dishes as Braised Shark Fins in Brown Sauce; Simmered Pigs Head; Mackerel Liver Broth; and
d) the extensive, varied **Guangdong** cuisine from the Pearl River Valley and China's south coast.
With Chinese cooking great attention is paid to the aesthetic appreciation of food, aroma and appearance of a dish, as well as its flavour.
This is a concise, colourful, informative booklet that would be most suitable for acquainting the budding home-kitchen chef with background and preparation of fine Chinese cuisine.

Chinese medicine (21 pages)
This publication is an overview on **The History and Development of Traditional Chinese Medicine; Treating a Patient; and The Spread of Traditional Chinese Medicine to the Rest of the World.** Of interest is commentary on how Chinese and Western medicine differ and the essence of 'ying' and 'yang' symptoms.

China's folk festivals (25 pages) China's many ethnic groups all have their own traditional festival. This booklet describes sixteen of the major ones. Many of the legends upon which these folk festivals are based are quite intriguing.

Crown Street series — Stories for elementary Chinese language students

Three very brief (50 - 100 words), simply written, illustrated story books - in English and Chinese - have been published. ***The big mouth frog***, ***Sour grapes*** and ***The nine planets of the solar system*** will provide fun, interesting and appropriate literature for an elementary class studying basic Chinese.

More titles in the series are promised.

Fundamental issues in present day China

Deng Xiaoping, Foreign Languages press (Beijing), 1987, 196 pages
This book is a collection of 47 talks and speeches made by Deng between 1982 and 1987. Two general themes are emphasized:
The cardinal principles (opposing bourgeois liberalization while adhering to reform policies) and increased involvement with the **outside world.**

To my surprise, the speeches were not tortuously pedantic for the layman to read. Views were expressed in a clear, straight forward manner, easy to understand.

Deng's overriding thesis is apparent in his opening speech given in 1982, when he noted that

'In carrying out our modernization program we must proceed from Chinese realities ... We should also learn from foreign countries and draw on their experience, but mechanical copying and application of foreign experience and models will get us nowhere ... We must integrate the universal truth of Marxism with the concrete realities of China ...'

Some interesting policies in specific areas are on: major construction projects, building socialism; Sino-US relations; special economic zones and opening more cities; relations with Taiwan and Hong Kong; democracy and economic reform; and student unrest.

A valuable book for the China watcher.

National Chinese Curriculum Projects

Background to the projects

The National Chinese Curriculum Project P/K/R - 12 has been funded through the Asian Studies Program of the National Policy on Languages and managed by the Victorian Ministry of Education. The Project is producing curriculum materials using the Australian Language Levels (ALL) Guidelines as a fundamental reference point. Adaptations are necessarily being made to embrace the characteristics of Chinese language. The primary component of the Project has also relied on guidance from teachers of Chinese currently teaching within primary schools, primary school curriculum and teacher training consultants and linguistics consultants.

Consultation and joint writing workshops relative to all aspects of the syllabus design between the Post-Primary and Primary Components of the Curriculum have given continuity to these two components. Similar themes have been chosen as the organising focus. However, the learners' dissimilar cognitive abilities means that a different approach to learning and theme perspectives has been taken. For learners in transition from primary to post-primary, this will allow for consolidation and expansion of their Chinese language resource and learning skills.

The Primary Component consists of:

• **Stage Books** —A series of framework syllabuses for five Stages catering for two different learner pathways in the primary area — the non-Chinese background learners and the Chinese background learners are planned. Each Stage Book will contain Stage objectives which specify what is required in terms of learning outcomes. A number of modules will be developed for each Stage on a range of relevant themes. Module objectives are outlined, along with suggested activities, and supporting resources. One of these units in each module is fully developed as a model that teachers can employ to achieve a fully integrated program for a complete Stage. A Stage is envisaged as a 2-3 year program with the Chinese specialist teacher taking learners for Chinese language learning for a recommended *several* lessons each week.

• **Resource Package** — containing:

a) Teachers Resource Folio – A4 size, black and white resources to support activity suggestions in the Stage Books. The resources will range across Stages and will be grouped under such sections as games, worksheets, cultural background notes, poems and silly rhymes and songs (with music) miscellaneous items. Included in the folio will be a song cassette.

b) Stage Specific Learners Books – A writing practice booklet is being developed for lower primary stages to introduce learners to basic strokes, stroke order and some pictographs. Another booklet called 'Let's Explore Chinese', is being developed for middle to upper primary learners which introduces some background information to Chinese and writing practice.

c) Storybooks – Eight storybooks are currently under development for a range of Stages.

d) Shared Resources with Post-Primary – A number of large, full-colour classroom charts relative to life in China and a set of full-colour cardboard cutout Chinese figures which can be used for puppet shows have also been developed.

The Post - Primary Component

• **Stage Books** –A substantial part of the Stage Book for Stage One has been developed in draft form. This Stage Book constitutes a framework syllabus for the junior secondary level (Years 7-8). It contains a description of the target group; Stage goals and objectives; a set of modules; checklists of functions, notions and linguistic elements; and guidance on resources. This Stage Book will be supported by a bank of audio and visual resources, and the Teacher's Handbook.

A detailed procedure is set out for the programing of the three introductory modules 'A Week in My Life', 'School Life' and 'Relationships'. This takes the form of sample Units which incorporate the following: Unit objectives; checklists of functions, notions and grammar; pre-teaching strategies, and suggested activities and exercises accompanied by worksheets.

An appropriate assessment scheme has not as yet been developed. A list of additional resources to complement the framework syllabus has yet to be compiled.

It is expected that the Stage Book for Stage One will be circulated for comment by October 1990.

The detailed development of the Stage Two (Years 9-10) framework syllabus will begin around October. The outline of the syllabus has already been developed. Identified in the outline are module focuses; communicative functions, notions and linguistic elements; and discourse forms. Language samples, both spoken and written, have already been developed for a number of the modules. In developing the Stage Two framework syllabus, particular attention will be given to maintaining links with Stage One modules by gradually expanding the range of communicative purposes and contexts, and recycling and extending language forms introduced in Stage One

• **Resources** — The development of resources for the post-primary component of the Project has prioritised language samples, both spoken and written, as input for communicative activities.

a) For Stage One the emphasis is on the provision of spoken language samples related to each module.

b) Visual resources thus far developed consist of illustrated worksheets to accompany the 'Language and Cultural Awareness' module and some of the activities in the introductory modules.

c) Preliminary discussions have taken place with the Language Testing Unit at the University of Melbourne regarding collaboration in developing an assessment scheme for the curriculum model for Chinese developed by the Project.

For further information contact

Julie Riley —Primary Project Coordinator
(03) 628 2025

Mara Pavlidis — Project Coordinator
(03) 628 2024

Ministry of Education
Rialto Towers, Level M1
525 Collins Street
Melbourne, VIC 3000

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The Malaysian experience

Malaysia is a federation of 13 states which came into being in September 1963. But while the nation itself is quite young, the history of the land which has come to be known as Malaysia dates back many centuries.

Long before European influences began to be felt the region consisted of a number of Malay states which had, at various times come under Indian, Arab, Sumatran, Javanese, Philippine, Thai and Chinese rule or influence. The first European settlement was at Malacca which was taken by force by the Portuguese in 1511. The Dutch, in turn, seized the town in 1641. The British presence was first felt in Penang which they acquired in 1786 for the East India Company. In 1795 they took control of Malacca during the Napoleonic wars. In 1825 the British and the Dutch exchanged occupied territories resulting in the creation of the Colony of the Straits Settlements in 1826. Some 40 years later the administration of this region, which included Penang, Malacca and Singapore, was transferred to direct British control.

The Malay states adjacent to this rather small settlement were left in relative peace for the better part of the 19th century, but in 1873 Britain sought to exert political control over the Malay rulers. Finally in 1895 the states of Perak, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan and Pahang were brought together to form the Federated Malay States. The states of Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan and Trengganu later accepted British advisers but never joined the federation.

(C. Sice/M. Devine)

At the end of the Second World War a British Military Administration was set up and Singapore became a colony. In 1946 a Malayan Union was established among the nine states but it collapsed following strong opposition from Malay nationalists two years later. At the same time the Malayan Communist Party launched an armed struggle to win power. A state of emergency existed from 1948 until 1960 when the communist threat was seen to have been defeated. Australian troops were involved during this time.

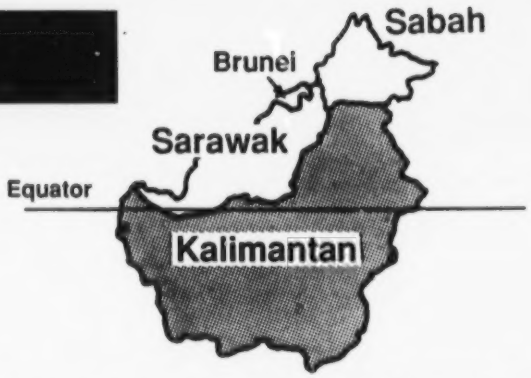
The idea of an independent Malaysia was first put forward by Tunku Abdul Rahman, the prime minister of Malaya, in 1961. He suggested that Malaya, Singapore, Brunei, Sabah and Sarawak should become more closely linked. This won support but both Brunei and Singapore chose not to become part of the new nation. The idea was bitterly opposed by both the Philippines and Indonesia who claimed some of the territories in question. Between 1963 and 1966 a period of 'confrontation' arose between Indonesia and Malaysia which included armed attacks on Malaysian territory by Indonesia. Formal diplomatic recognition was extended to Malaysia by Indonesia on 31 August 1967. Claims by the Philippines to Sabah have yet to be officially withdrawn.

Australia and Malaysia have enjoyed good relations throughout the new nation's brief history and long before the formation of the state of Malaysia. The two countries share many common interests and historical ties. Both have traditional links with Britain and both share similarities in parliamentary style. Trade links and exchanges of a military and civilian nature go back for many years and both are essentially multicultural states.

The population of Malaysia stands at just over 17.4 million. Ethnic Malays and indigenous populations in Sarawak and Sabah make up 58 percent of the total population of the country. The Chinese are the next biggest group, with 32 percent of the population, followed by the Indian community with 8.5 percent. The religions practised in Malaysia very much follow the population split with Malays generally following the faith of Islam, Chinese either Taoist or Christian and Indians generally Hindu. Islam is the state religion of Malaysia, although freedom of religion is written into the constitution.

The people and culture of this dynamic Asian economy and the links between Australia and Malaysia, then, shall be the focus of this issue of *Asia Wise*.

The forests of Malaysia



Malaysia has very much been the focus of attention in recent times. It has not been a question of violent political upheavals or population pressures, or even economic difficulties which have been drawing attention to the country. Rather, the focus has been on the question of the environment, and in particular the state of Malaysia's rainforests.

The rainforests of the state of Sarawak are among the oldest and most diverse on the planet. They have been evolving over the past 150 million years. However, recent years have seen massive encroachments by logging companies into these forest areas. In the period between 1963-81, some 30 percent of Sarawak's total forest was logged. By the end of 1984 an additional 60 percent had been sold to timber interests.

Rainforests are home to about half of the ten million species of plants and animals on earth. Today rainforests cover just two percent of the surface of the planet. An area the size of Victoria is logged every year. As many as 48 plant and animal species become extinct every day. And then there are people whose home has traditionally been the forests. What happens to these people when the forests disappear is a question facing governments and people the world over. Governments in countries like Malaysia are faced with a most difficult choice. We all need the forests to be preserved for the health of the planet and yet the governments of nations like Malaysia need the money the forests bring.

Among the forest people of Sarawak are the Penan. They have become quite well known abroad as a result of their blockade of logging companies' roads. Their fame was spread by the efforts of Bruno Manser, an anthropologist and environmentalist who lived among the Penan for a considerable time. The film 'Blowpipes and Bulldozers' is an account of the Penan and their struggle to save their forest home.

The Penan made an appeal to the Malaysian government saying that 'we are victims of the big modern world. We love our land. We just want a little for ourselves'. Just what to do about the Penan has been causing massive headaches for the Malaysian government. Two arguments can be heard. One is that they are a primitive people who must be brought into the 20th century and that their way of life is no longer possible. They are simply unfortunate casualties of the modern world. The other argument is that the Penan people have been able to live with nature in a successful way for centuries and that change will bring few, if any benefits to them. They should be free to keep their age-old lifestyle.

The thinking of Malaysian government officials does appear to be changing. There can be little argument today against the importance of maintaining the existing rainforests. Their importance to the global eco-system is undeniable. However, it was not all that long ago that the state of Sarawak's Minister for the Environment and Tourism made headlines with the remark that 'we get too much rain in Sarawak anyway — it stops me from playing golf.' His comments were made after being presented with studies concerning the changing weather patterns arising from the destruction of the forests. He also owned about 300 000 hectares of forest concessions and refused to accept that this and his job as Minister for the Environment might be a conflict of interests.

The question of the future of these rainforest areas of Malaysia is a most complicated one. It is a simple matter to say 'stop all logging, no matter what.' It is also simple to say, 'we need the money the forests will bring in.' It is a far more difficult matter to satisfy the demands for economic development that a country such as Malaysia has as well as come up with satisfactory solutions to ecological questions. However, answers will have to be found for the sake of the future.

(P. Dombrovskis)

The Australian connection

Australia and Malaysia have enjoyed a close relationship which crosses both political and economic boundaries for a considerable time. Australia is generally quite well known in Malaysia as thousands of Malaysian students have completed both secondary and tertiary studies in this country.

The links between the two countries are drawn from a number of long-standing associations. Both countries have a common history, in that both had British colonial backgrounds. There was an Australian military involvement in Malaya during the Second World War and again later during the period of the Malayan 'Emergency' as well as the time of the confrontation period between Malaysia and Indonesia.

A range of defence agreements has been shared by the two countries over the years. Each year some 475 Malaysians receive military training in Australia and there are Australian advisers working with the Malaysian armed forces.

On a more peaceful note, the two countries share some common parliamentary, legal and administrative traditions. Australian investment in Malaysia is quite substantial and trade and tourism between the two is consistently high.

Malaysia has been a recipient of Australian aid projects since 1950. Aid generally falls into two categories — educational assistance and project assistance.

Nearly two thirds of all financial assistance has gone into projects, experts and equipment. The remainder has been spent on training projects for Malaysians in Australia. Australia is the third largest donor of aid to Malaysia.

(ACAIR)

Disease control

A joint Malaysian-Australian research team has developed a vaccine that will benefit villages across much of Asia. It is a vaccine for controlling Newcastle disease — one of the major poultry killers of the world. The virus came to be known as Newcastle disease because it was first identified at Newcastle-on-Tyne in England in 1926.

The new vaccine, developed by scientists at the Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (the agricultural university of Malaysia) and the University of Queensland, was sponsored by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and would seem to be providing an effective way of protecting poultry in Third World countries.

Research showed that the vaccine, called V4, which is a strain of the actual virus, was a most effective way of immunising poultry. It is simply sprayed onto chicken feed and later fed to chickens. It is not only easy to use but is proving to be most effective.

The research project was aimed at developing the vaccine for use in Malaysian villages, where the disease is common and visits with devastating effect. Studies among 52 pilot farms showed that simply providing feed which had been coated with the V4 vaccine not only immunised infected birds but protected disease-free chickens as well. Scientists are now preparing the way forward in order to move beyond the small-scale, laboratory-centred operation into the wider community.

Malaysian villages were chosen as a model to test the vaccine because the conditions there are quite close to those in villages across South-East Asia and in other Third World countries. Controlling the disease will benefit villagers in a number of ways. Most importantly it will boost family incomes through increased production of eggs and meat. It is estimated that a successful campaign will raise the incomes of a high proportion of the 159 000 rural poor households above subsistence levels.

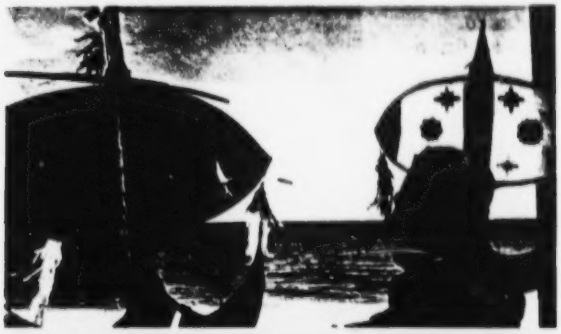
(AIDAB)

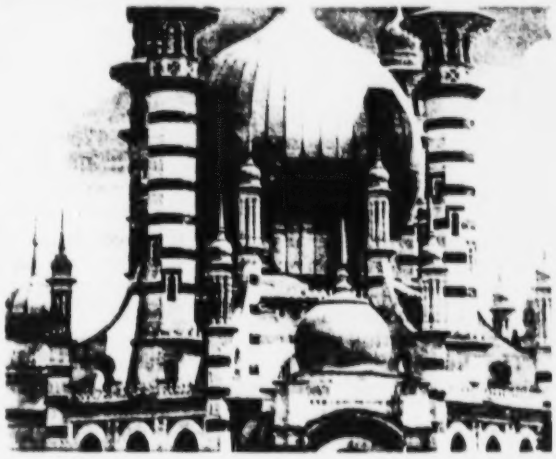
A multi-ethnic culture

Asia is a huge region with a great many differences from place to place. Malaysia is often said to be Asia in miniature and there may be more than a grain of truth in that statement. The country is a mix of different cultures and ethnic groupings — Malay, Chinese, Indian as well as indigenous ethnic groups in Sabah and Sarawak. The 'Asia in miniature' label becomes even more obvious when the culture of Malaysia is taken into account.

Malay dances and costumes, for instance, reflect the influences which other peoples have had on the country. Thai, Filipino and Indian elements can all be seen in these dances and costumes. The Chinese influences are also strong. It may take the form of rich and colourful dragon dances, or traditional Chinese martial arts, or Chinese architecture and food.

(Tourist Development Corporation of Malaysia)





(Qantas)

While Islam is the state religion in Malaysia, the culture of the country has been very much influenced by Hindu traditions. The wayang kulit shadow-play, so much a part of Indonesian culture, was for centuries a popular art form. It has lost some of its influence in recent years, however, and modern mass media are being blamed by some for the slow decline of traditional entertainment.

The Malaysian national sport is a universal one — soccer. However, sepak takraw, the Malaysian version of volleyball is still extremely popular. It is played with a ball made from rattan and a net. The ball is sent across the net by foot or any part of the body except the hands.

Anyone who happens to find themselves in Malaysia at any time of the year will be able to witness some festival. Below is a very brief sample of 'what's on' in any calendar year. We have chosen, pretty much at random, 12 events — one for each month of the year, but there are, of course, plenty more.

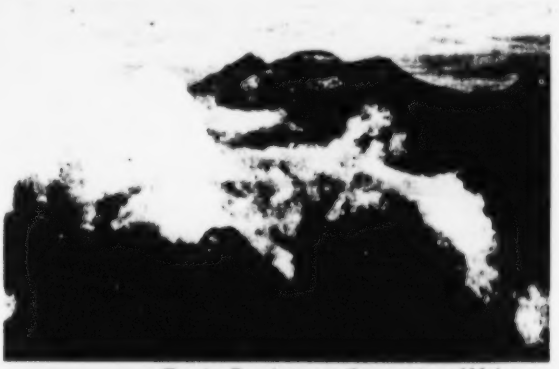
(Qantas)

January: *Thaiponggal* — a Hindu festival falling on the first day of the Tamil year. It is a harvest festival with food being offered to the sun.
February: *Chinese New Year* — Malaysians of all races visit Chinese friends who see this as an 'open house' time.
March: *Masimagam* — a Hindu day of thanksgiving with a procession of the 'Silver Chariot'.
April: *Wau* — an international kite festival.
May: *Wesak* — the most important day in the Buddhist calendar to remember Buddha's birth, gaining of enlightenment and reaching Nirvana.
June: *Pesta Rebana Kelantan* — a giant drum festival to celebrate the harvest.
July: *Hari Raya Haji* — celebrated by Moslems to mark the last phase of the pilgrimage to Mecca.
August: *Hungry Ghost Festival* — a Chinese celebration of the return to earth of the souls of the dead.
September: *Moon Cake Festival* — a Chinese festivity marking the overthrow of the Mongol rulers in ancient China.
October: *Loy Krathong* — Thais in Malaysia set lotus flowers with lighted candles afloat to remember Buddha's footprint on the Narmada River in India.
November: *Festival of lights* — an Indian festival with an emphasis on cultural performance.
December: *Tung Chih* — a Chinese festival where ancestors are honoured.

Weather

Malaysia's weather is dominated by the northeast monsoon which brings rain to the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia and to the coasts of Sabah and Sarawak from October to February. The southwest monsoon also strikes Malaysia between May and September. Average rainfall for Malaysia is between 2 032-2 540mm.

Temperatures in Malaysia are generally quite high and range from 21-32 degrees Celsius. Humidity is also high with the average being about 80 percent.



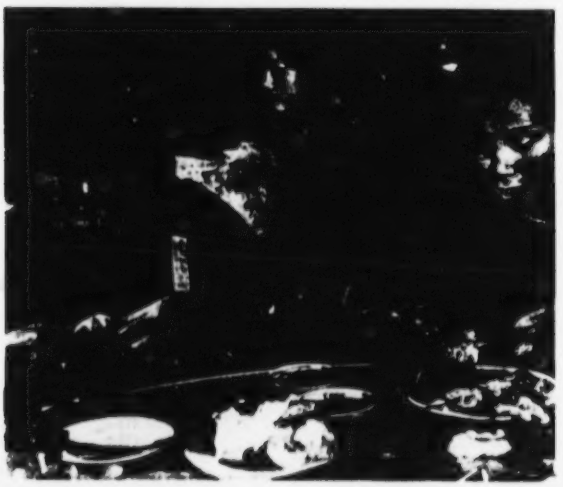
(Tourist Development Corporation of Malaysia)

There are many ways to get a 'taste' for a country. One of the most obvious is to taste some of the cooking of the country in question. Why not try this recipe for **Malaysian Beef Satay**.

500g rump steak
1 tablespoon sugar
1½ teaspoons ground turmeric
3 teaspoons grated lemon rind
1½ teaspoons ground cumin
3 tablespoons lemon juice
1 teaspoon ground fennel
3 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 teaspoon salt

1. Cut the steak into small cubes.
2. Mix together the turmeric, cumin, fennel, salt, sugar, lemon rind, lemon juice and vegetable oil. Stir until the sugar is dissolved.
3. Add the steak to the mixture and stir well to ensure that each cube of meat is well coated. Allow to marinate for several hours.
4. Put the meat on skewers and cook under a hot griller (or over a barbecue) until crisp, brown and cooked on all sides.

(Tourist Development Corporation of Malaysia)



Malaysia is home to an enormous number of animal and plant species whose home is the tropical rainforest. While forestry has made serious inroads into these forests much of the country is still under rainforest cover. The forests contain about 15 000 different species of plant life, of which some 6 000 are different tree species. It is the rich abundance of forest species which have been so much in focus from the point of view of both those who see the forest as a source of income and also from the point of view of those who wish to see the rich forests of Malaysia preserved.

(Qantas)

The forests and jungles are also home to a large array of animals. Again the destruction of large areas of Malaysia's rainforests has seriously threatened many species. While the tiger may be the king of Malaysian beasts, few are seen as they move deeper and deeper into the protection of the forest. Elephant, rhinoceros and wild ox or *seladang* are the largest animals in Malaysia. Malaysia has long been famous as home to the orang utan — another threatened animal of the rain forests. There are some 500 different species of birds also resident in the forests.

Tourism year for Malaysia

An announcement was made last year by the Malaysian government and tourist authorities that 1990 was to be declared 'Visit Malaysia Year'. Tourism has never had as high a priority as in neighbouring Thailand or in the Philippines, but all stops have been pulled out to put Malaysia well and truly on the tourist map.

One of the first priorities for Malaysia's government officials was to ensure that the country, and in particular the capital of Kuala Lumpur, was spruced up and that the people were ready and had the right attitude to welcome the anticipated tourist rush. Squatter camps which are within sight of the King's palace were among the first on the 'clean up' list. A team of dog catchers was also quickly recruited.

The Minister for Public Enterprises, on her return from an overseas trip, discovered another area which needed some attention. She chose to leave her government car and catch a taxi. She wanted to arrive in the capital in much the same way as the average tourist. The taxi broke down and she was forced to ring for another car. Not surprisingly Transport Ministry officials have been demanding a clean up of transport systems.

Other Ministers began taking a look at the country from the point of view of the visitor and found all sorts of problems which had to be overcome. Traders on the tax-free island resort of Langkawi, for instance, were found to be charging ridiculously high prices for goods and services and so were forced to sort out their charging rates.

The year-long tourist festival, with the theme of 'millions of feasts, hundreds of processions and thousands of dances' captured the imagination of most Malaysians, particularly as the four million-plus tourists began to arrive. Malaysia's Prime Minister Dr Mahathir set the pace when he urged 'every Malaysian to play a part in making tourists feel welcome by being friendly and helpful.'

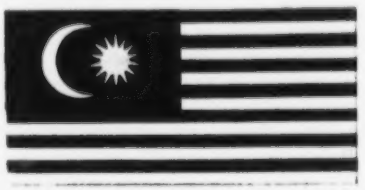
Tourism in Malaysia is a quieter, more sedate affair than in either the Philippines or neighbouring Thailand. Malaysia is officially an Islamic nation, although it is nowhere as strict in its observance as some other Islamic states. At the same time tourist authorities are making it clear that the emphasis is on family-based tourism. Tourists are being encouraged to leave two things at home — aids and drugs. There is a mandatory death penalty for carrying more than 10g of heroin. This notice is placed prominently at all entry points in to the country.

However, tourists seem not to be put off by such 'limitations' as well over three million visitors arrive each year and the 'tourist year' has seen the numbers boosted. It works out to about one tourist for every 4.25 Malaysians.

(M. Devine/C. Sice)

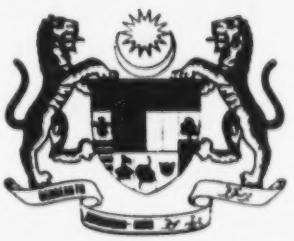
Running up the colours

of the Federation of Malaysia was first officially raised in 1963. There are five major parts to the flag. These are:



a yellow fourteen-point star which represents the 13 states within the Federation as well as the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur;
a yellow crescent which, with the star, represent the traditional symbol of the state religion of Islam;
fourteen red and white stripes which again represent the states of Malaysia;
a dark blue patch which stands for the unity of the people of the country; and
the yellow of the star and crescent which is the colour of the kings of the states.

...and the coat of arms



The motto running below the emblem reads 'Unity is Strength'. Two royal tigers stand on either side of the shield which contains the emblems of the 13 Malaysian states and the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur. The star and crescent appear once more. They symbolise the states and the national religion of Islam.

The legacy of 'rubber Ridley'

Many countries have an industry that people come to associate with that country. People often link Australia with sheep farming. Most would put the words rubber and Malaysia together, even though rubber is no longer Malaysia's major industry. Rubber and tin have been very much in the forefront of Malaysia's economic growth. Today the price of tin on the world market has fallen and many tin mining operations face closure. The rubber industry has maintained a relatively strong position and is still a big earner of export dollars.

Seeds for rubber trees were introduced from Brazil in the 19th century. At first coffee planters, who were slowly losing a battle to compete on the world market were rather reluctant to experiment with the new crop. Henry Ridley who was the Director of the Botanic Gardens in Singapore persisted, however, and was known to travel about the Malayan countryside with seeds in his pocket in order to persuade anyone prepared to listen to him that rubber was the way to go. He became known as 'rubber Ridley' by the planters who proved difficult to talk into planting rubber trees.

Things did not change for Ridley until John Dunlop invented the bicycle tire and Henry Ford began production of automobiles. Business in rubber boomed and Ridley is now remembered as something of a hero.

At its peak the Malaysian rubber industry accounted for 42 percent of the total world output of natural rubber. Rubber tappers would set off to work to collect the cups of latex from the trees.

Today rubber plantations are not quite as grand as they once were. The emergence of the palm oil industry has cut into the areas under rubber plantation. Palm oil became for Malaysia what rubber once was and the country now produces nearly half the world's palm oil. (AIDAB)

Big business bunnies

Moves are underway to make the humble rabbit famous as a big money earner for Malaysia. Farmers are being encouraged to start breeding rabbits in order to cash in on an increasing world demand for rabbit meat and as a way to lift meat production in the country.

The bunny is big business. France produces 250 000 tonnes a year. People in the USA eat up to 13 000 tonnes each year. China and Japan are other big producers. Experts agree that consumption will grow dramatically in the coming years. The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation is predicting that by the end of the century rabbit meat could satisfy up to 33 percent of the world's meat requirements. At the moment 200 million rabbits are sold each year. This is 10 percent of the total world meat production.

With this rather strong incentive, the Malaysian government is stepping up its small rabbit business. The logic is simple enough. The amount of land required and the cost of farming rabbits is low. They breed quickly and the return to the grower is very quick.

From the point of view of the home market things are still a bit sluggish. Malaysians are reluctant to eat the furry little creatures. They see them as being too cuddly to eat. Government authorities are working at ways to bring the price down and to get their people eating more rabbits. They are hoping to reduce chicken consumption by about 25 percent and replace this with rabbit.

Finger licking profits

Is it Kentucky fried beef or McChicken? Nobody seems absolutely sure. What is certain, however, is that the two giants of the fast-food world are doing battle for the hearts, minds, stomachs and pockets of Malaysians.

Kentucky had 65 outlets in Malaysia at last count as against 21 for McDonald's, but the gap is closing. McDonald's hit the market with fried chicken and took a lot of Malaysia's Kentucky customers. The opposition struck back with a Colonel Burger but it was an idea whose time had not yet come. The two companies are putting a great deal of energy and advertising money into the marketing of their products — and with an annual fast-food turnover of $80 million plus, is it any wonder?

A cat that prays

We all know that cats prey. It is in their nature to hunt. Mice and birds are on the top of their lists of prey, but what about a cat that prays? Well there is such a cat and she has taken up residence in a Buddhist temple in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.

This might sound a bit unlikely but the cat, apparently, sits back on her hind legs and then brings her paws up to touch her forehead while swaying her head just like the human worshippers. Human believers pray at set times but the cat, it would seem, can't tell the time too well, because she goes through her ritual whenever the mood takes her.

Now whether or not the cat is actually praying is impossible to say. The cat is certainly not telling anyone, but many Malaysian Buddhists are sure that it is the case. They explain the rather strange behaviour by reminding those who are not convinced that

(Qantas)

Buddhists believe that we all are continually reborn and that the cat was probably a religious person in a former life but that the business of rebirth went wrong and she didn't improve her position on the upward spiral but came back, instead, as a cat. It puts a whole new complexion on the word prey, or should that be pray.

An automatic welcome

One of the first encounters the tourist has with the local people after arriving in a foreign country is the man or woman behind the money-changing counter. It's not always the first meeting of one's dreams and not quite like the travel brochures. But it is one of those necessary things which must be done. Once the business of swapping dollars for the currency of the host country has been completed, then the holiday can begin.

The Malaysian government has scored a first in Asia by doing away with the human contact altogether. They have installed the first of a series of automatic money-changing machines at Kuala Lumpur's Subang International Airport. Other machines will soon be put in place in other airports throughout the country.

Ten different currencies are accepted by the hungry machines — including Australian dollars and an additional four foreign currencies are soon to be added to the list.

The machines will do everything that human bank officers currently do. It's all a bit like the automatic teller machines you see people huddled around outside banks. The big difference is that these machines have the ability to respond to users in the language appropriate to the currency being exchanged. What the machine won't do is pass the time of day with you or give a smile of encouragement to the tired and confused traveller — but then that's progress isn't it?

Malaysia's top sport

The spinning of tops has very much gone out of fashion in Australia. In fact it would be pretty difficult to find anyone who has a spinning top, much less is a spinner of tops. But in Malaysia, it is not only a favourite toy among children but a quite serious sport. It is called *gasing* and is a popular game in Malaysia, Singapore and in Brunei.

Malays have traditionally played gasing and competitions arouse much interest. The competition-style tops weigh in at around 1.2kg. A game usually lasts for about an hour and has two four-member teams. At the toss of a coin one team becomes spinners and the other strikers. Spinners try to position their tops close together to make it difficult for the striking team to hit the top in such a way as to stop it from spinning. If a spinner's gasing is still twirling after all strikers have been used, then the spinning team becomes the striker. If the strikers defeat the spinners, points are awarded and the advantage of being the striking team is maintained.

(Qantas)

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Malaysia — measured growth

(Qantas)

Malaysia is one of Australia's nearest Commonwealth neighbours. The recent history of the two nations has been closely linked. Despite this and positions held in common between the two countries, we hear quite little about our neighbour.

Malaysia captures far fewer headlines than other Asian nations. For the last decade or so, things have proceeded quietly in Malaysia. While nations around this strategically placed peninsula have been at the centre of often turbulent and dramatic developments — war in Indo-China or political trauma in the Philippines — Malaysia's growth has been more measured, more stable and less dramatic.

But, if the most recent past has been quiet, the road travelled by Malaysia during its formative period was hardly serene. The states constituting the nation we know as Malaysia lie on important trade routes and, for this reason, these sultanates long attracted the attentions of European powers. First the Portuguese and then the Dutch maintained a presence before the British secured Penang and came to dominate local affairs.

With the last years of the 19th century came the period of great rubber plantations. This development saw large numbers of Chinese and Indians arrive — beginning the multi-racial mix which was later to create more than a little hostility between Malays and indigenous peoples from Sabah and Sarawak and the later arrivals. From 1882 until 1942 and the Japanese occupation during the Second World War, Sabah was ruled by the British North Borneo Company. It became a huge rubber plantation. Sarawak too came under extensive British economic control. Both became colonies after the war and remained so until Federation in 1963.

Malaysia is today made up of 13 states and a Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur. Singapore and Brunei had indicated that they might join the Federation but thought better of the proposition at the final moment. The country remains a constitutional monarchy with the king being elected each five years from among the ranks of the hereditary sultans of the Malaysian states.

As we have already indicated, Malaysia is of considerable strategic importance. Its geographic positioning — on trade routes from Europe through the Middle East and India to China and Japan has resulted in the multi-racial mix that is modern Malaysia. Malays and the indigenous peoples of Sabah and Sarawak make up 59 percent of the total population. The Chinese with 32 percent and Indians with 8.6 percent constitute the next biggest population groups.

The Federation was born in a period of considerable hostility. The period of Malaysian history referred to as the 'Emergency' saw a protracted insurgency by guerrillas of the Communist Party of Malaya. Racial antagonisms became pronounced. The majority of the insurgents were of Chinese origin. Malays reacted to a perceived Chinese threat. The 'Emergency' was lifted before the state of Malaysia actually came into being, but racial hostility did not disappear. Non-Malays felt particularly threatened as the 1969 elections drew near. Malays had been guaranteed a dominant place in society. Language and education policies saw racial differences peak. Violence erupted leaving hundreds dead. A state of emergency was declared and parliament did not resume until February 1971.

It became a matter of seditious utterance to question the special position Malays enjoy in Malaysian society. Given these rather inauspicious beginnings — the Emergency, the confrontation with Indonesia and continuing tensions between fundamentalist and 'mainstream' Islam — the authorities in Malaysia have managed to maintain stability, while creating a prosperous and vibrant economic base.

Economically the country has grown in a steady way. While its base was rubber and tin, it has since diversified through palm oil, timber and cocoa. Off-shore oil and gas deposits have been developed and a valuable manufacturing sector has been implemented with some success. Relations with Australia remain strong and trade between the two countries, while not dramatic is steadily growing.

Malaysia datafile

CAPITAL
Kuala Lumpur

GOVERNMENT
Prime Minister — Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad
Malaysia is a federation of 13 states. Peninsular Malaysia, formerly Malaya, contains 11 of the Malaysian states (131 825sq km). The other two states are Sabah and Sarawak covering the north and north-east portions of the island of Borneo (200 976sq km).

ETHNIC COMPOSITION
Malaysia is a multi-racial society. The largest community is comprised of the ethnic Malays in the peninsula and indigenous groups in Sabah and Sarawak (58%). The next largest group is the Chinese (32%) followed by the Indian community (8.5%).

RELIGION
Malays are Moslims, Chinese are mostly Buddhist, Taoist or Christian, whilst most Indians, who are largely of Tamil ethnic origin, are Hindus. Although Islam is the state religion, the constitution guarantees freedom of worship.

LANGUAGE
Bahasa Malaysia

PHYSICAL FEATURES
The peninsula is 772km at its longest and 321km at its widest. Most of the west coast is covered in mangrove swamps and mud flats, while on the east coast there are long stretches of beaches. Mountain ranges run down the centre of the peninsula and also dominate Sabah and Sarawak. In Sarawak, where several large rivers form deltas, the coastline is mainly swampy but in Sabah, where the rivers are smaller and the mountain ranges lie nearer the sea, cliffs and beaches are characteristic features. Malaysia's highest peak is Mt Kinabalu (4100m) in Sabah.

CLIMATE
Malaysia's climate is equatorial, with uniform and fairly high temperatures throughout the year, and high rainfall and humidity (Kuala Lumpur 25°-32°C & 80% humidity). The main rains are brought by the north-east monsoon, from October to February, and by the south-west monsoon from May to September.

CURRENCY
ringgit — 2.12 ringgit = $A1.00 (Sept, '90)

MAJOR INDUSTRIES
electrical products, food, petroleum refining, transport equipment, non-metallic mineral products, textiles

MAJOR AGRICULTURE
rubber, palm & palm kernel oil, sawlogs, cocoa, rice, pepper, pineapples

MINING
tin

MAJOR IMPORTS
machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods, food, crude petroleum, raw sugar

MAJOR EXPORTS
manufactured goods, crude petroleum, sawlogs, rubber, palm oil, tin

AREA

TOTAL	330 400
CULTIVATED	15%
FOREST	80%
PASTURE	2%

POPULATION STRUCTURE

TOTAL	17.4 million
UNDER 15	37%
URBAN	35%
BIRTH RATE (per 1 000)	31
INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1 000)	31
LIFE EXPECTANCY	67
DEATH RATE (per 1 000)	6
AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE	2.5%

WORKFORCE

TOTAL	6.3 million
COMMERCE, SERVICES	27.6%
MANUFACTURING	17.3%
AGRICULTURE, FISHING	30.73%
CONSTRUCTION	6%
GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC AUTHORITIES	13.54%
GNP PER CAPITA $A	$A2 277

SOCIAL INDICATORS

STUDENTS	primary	2.33 million
	secondary	1.34 million
	university	51 077
RATIO OF STUDENTS PER TEACHER		
primary		22:1
PERSONS PER HOSPITAL BED		668
PERSONS PER DOCTOR		2 700
LITERACY RATE		73%
TV RECEIVERS		1.7 million
RADIOS		445 million
CARS		1.55 million
TRUCKS & COMMERCIAL VEHICLES		3.8 million
MOTORCYCLES		2.7 million

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX RANK 85

COST OF LIVING STATISTICS

PER CAPITA SPENDING		$A 1 137
PERCENTAGE SPENT ON		
	food	41.1%
	housing	18.2%
	clothing	4.7%
	transport	16.6%

Sources:
Asiaweek, 14 September, 1990
Outline Series, Department of Foreign Affairs, 1989
Asia Yearbook 1990, Far Eastern Economic Review

Australia & Malaysia

1 TRADE

Malaysia ranks 9th in importance as a buyer of Australian goods in 1988-89 and is ranked as Australia's 10th most important source of imports in the same period.

Australia's leading exports to Malaysia ($'000)

	1988-89
cereals	93 865
commodities & financial transactions	147 744
non-ferrous metals	87 752
textile fibres	70 521
dairy products & eggs	47 905
metaliferous ores	63 035

Other leading exports include coal, coke, meat, iron & steel, vegetables, and fruit.

Malaysia's leading exports to Australia ($'000)

	1988-89
petroleum & products	142 903
crude rubber & rubber manufactures	63 857
vegetable fats & oils	41 776
cork & wood & associated manufactures	155 104
telecommunication & sound equipment	41 507
fish & shellfish	31 908

Other leading exports to Australia include textiles, coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, electrical machinery & appliances and manufactures of metals.

	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
Value of imports from Malaysia	$409 671 000	$590 732 000	$687 138 000
Value of exports to Malaysia	$591 567 000	$655 851 000	$742 421 000

2 AID

Within Australia's aid program there is a variety of forms through which aid is delivered. Forms include for example, technical assistance, development projects, training and commodity aid.

Australia's leading aid recipients 1988-89

	($million)
Papua New Guinea	313.7
Indonesia	84.0
Malaysia	48.2
Bangladesh	33.9
Philippines	33.0
China	30.4
Thailand	30.0

Australia's aid to Malaysia has been predominantly in the form of overseas student subsidies (in 1988-90 — 6 151 tertiary students and 919 secondary students).

With the introduction of a new scheme known as the Equity and Merit Scholarship Scheme (EMSS), the Malaysian program will concentrate on training. The aim of the EMSS is to provide training in Australia in institutions of higher education.

3 TOURISM

The Malaysian government declared 1990, 'Visit Malaysia Year' with the aim of attracting 4.2 million visitors.

The campaign aims to increase the number of foreign and local tourists and their length of stay as well as encouraging local arts and culture.

Malaysia-bound tourists in 1988

	number	share
Singapore	2 305 898	68.3%
Thailand	237 851	7.1%
Japan	154 376	4.6%
Australia	94 431	2.8%
Britain	86 712	2.6%
US	51 358	1.5%

Malaysia is an important source of tourists to Australia.

arrivals from Malaysia in 1988	**52 100**
total arrivals from Asia	**660 300**
total arrivals	**2 249 300**

ACTIVITIES

a) Calculate and graph Australia's balance of trade with Malaysia for the years 1986-87 to 1988-89.

b) The figures show that Australia buys $155 104 of wood products from Malaysia. Refer to the article 'The forests of Malaysia' and debate whether Australia should ban imports of tropical rainforest products.

c) Australia's aid program improves prospects for trade by developing new export markets and throughdirect purchases of Australian goods and services. A report in March, 1990 indicated that taking into account long-term effects that every dollar of aid produces more than a dollar of business for the Australian commercial sector. Comment on this statement and discuss how training of students may support Australian trade.

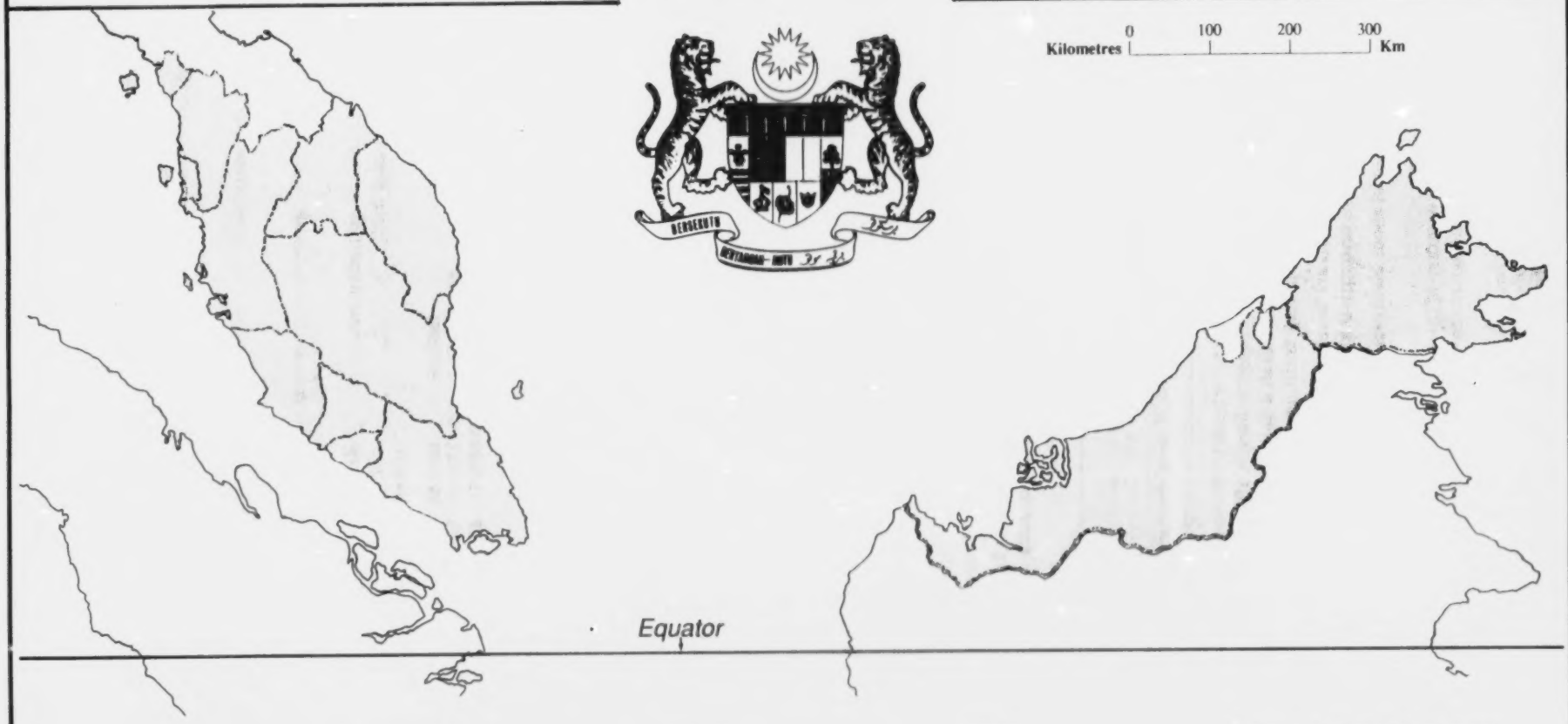
d) Australian tertiary institutions are developing campaigns to attract overseas fee-paying students. Collect relevant material and prepare a brochure that outlines the benefits of one of your state's institutions.

e) Collect tourism material about Malaysia. Prepare a talk, brochure or advertising campaign in support of Malaysia's tourism year.

f) Calculate — (i) what percentage of the total Asian tourist arrivals to Australia come from Malaysia
— (ii) what percentage of the total tourist arrivals to Australia come from Malaysia

Sources: ABS, *Foreign Trade Australia, Comparative and Summary Tables, 1988-89*
ABS, *1988 Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia*
Far Eastern Economic Review, 22March, 1990

MALAYSIA



MARK THESE FEATURES ON THE MAP

150

COUNTRIES

THAILAND
SINGAPORE
INDONESIA
— SUMATRA
— KALIMANTAN
BRUNEI
MALAYSIA
— SARAWAK
— SABAH

CITIES

KUALA LUMPUR
MELAKA (MALACCA)
KOTA BAHRU
SEREMBAN
TAIPING
ALOR SETAR
IPOH
KUANTAN

CITIES

JOHOR BAHRU
KUALA TERENGGANU
KLANG
GEORGETOWN
SIBU
MIRI
SANDAKAN

SEAS & ISLANDS (PULAU)

PULAU PENANG (PINANG)
PULAU LANGKAWI
PULAU TIOMAN
SOUTH CHINA SEA
SULU SEA
SULAWESI SEA
STRAITS OF MALACCA
SINGAPORE STRAITS

151

MALAYSIA

Pulau Langkawi
THAILAND
ALOR SETAR
KOTA BAHRU
Pulau Penang (Pinang)
GEORGETOWN
KUALA TERENGGANU
TAIPING
IPOH
South China Sea
KUANTAN
KUALA LUMPUR
KLANG
SEREMBAN
Pulau Tioman
Straits of Malacca
MELAKA (MALACCA)
JOHOR BAHRU
SINGAPORE
Singapore Straits
SUMATRA (INDONESIA)
Equator
0 100 200 300
Kilometres
Km
Sulu Sea
SANDAKAN
SABAH
BRUNEI
MIRI
Sulawesi Sea
SARAWAK
SIBU
KALIMANTAN (INDONESIA)

Lapanganterbang

Picture clues

1. kapalterbang
2. pramugari
3. penerbang
4. pegawi bea-cukai
5. suratkhabar
6. cokelat
7. beg pakaian
8. barang-barang
9. bandar besar
10. tas tangan
11. menara
12. kereta bas
13. pelancung
14. polis
15. pintu
16. penumpang
17. tangga
18. tas
19. jam
20. bangku
21. matahari
22. pena
23. bendera
24. kamera
25. bukit
26. jadual waktu
27. talipun
28. sekuter

1 Using the picture for clues work out what the bahasa Malaysia words mean in English.

2 Practise asking and answering questions about the classroom.

itu means that
ini means this
apa means which
Apa itu? (pointing to the tourist)
Itu pelancung.
Apa ini ? (pointing to the timetable)
Ini jadual waktu.

3 Unjumble the English words in the brackets to identify the*warna* bahasa Malaysia (colours in Malaysian).
warna bahasa Malaysia — kelabu (ygre) hijau (gneer) hitam (akcbl) kuning (elwloy) jingga (agrone) merah (dre) putih (ihtwe) ungu (prleup) biru (uleb) cokelat (wbrno)

4 Colour in the picture using these colours.

kuning — 19,18, 21	merah — 2,8
kelabu — 17,15	putih — 20, 26
hitam — 24,11,22	ungu — 4,6
hijau — 25,27,10	biru — 3, 14
jingga — 12,7,28	cokelat — 16,22

Bahasa Tetanggaku — Stage 2 Coursebook and Workbook

by Ian J. White, Longman Cheshire, 1989

Since reviewing *Bahasa Tetanggaku* Stage 1, I have had quite a lot of feedback about the book from teachers and students of Indonesia. Most teachers seem to find it difficult to use with absolute beginners in the language. It is suitable for those who have had some previous experience in Indonesian. Students I have spoken to like the fact of having their own workbook to accompany the coursebook.

Stage 2 is now available in the same format and with the same objectives as Stage 1 — namely, to provide a notional-functional course in Bahasa Indonesia. Stage 3 is in the pipeline.

Like the first stage, Stage 2 consists of seven topics, each covering several language functions and grammar points. There is a wealth of material in each topic, including new vocabulary and I doubt if more than two topics would be covered in an average school term. Each topic begins with a reading passage, almost all of which I found too long and rather dry. In fact, some of them seem to be almost a rehash of stories from Hendrata's *Audio-Lingual course in Bahasa Indonesia*. Perhaps it was also the close-set type which made the passages difficult to read. The smaller reading passages in each topic are pithier and much more interesting.

My main quibble is with Ian White's so-called language functions. In trying to avoid the bogeyman 'grammar', from time to time he has simply re-assigned what are essentially grammar points to language functions. We end up with a sort of 'Clayton's grammar.' His explanations of grammar points, when he does include them, are better than they were in Stage 1. There is no apparent link between the various language functions included in a topic — except, perhaps, that they happen to be used in the story. Some of them are quite trivial, and are little more than items of vocabulary elevated to language functions. My reaction to some of them was 'so what'?

I found the cultural roles and most of the photographs in the coursebook interesting and useful. The vocab' lists, however, are often printed on the page after the story in which they were introduced — this is rather confusing.

I like the workbook, which contains mainly exercises, with some activities (mainly role-playing) related to the topics in the coursebook. The 'speaking tests', however, are really translation exercises rather than tests of language functions — another aspect of the confusion between language functions and vocalising items.

I will certainly use both the coursebook and the workbook, but not as my sole resource for any particular class. The very fact that it is recently written and refreshingly up-to-date means that it will be well-thumbed.

Pam McCall — Tasmania

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands

by Pauline Bunce, Jacaranda Wiley Ltd.

Foreword by the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency the Right Honourable, Sir Ninian Stephen AK, CCMG, GCVO, KBE

At last! We welcome the arrival of the first gloriously illustrated comprehensive book about the Cocos (Keeling) Islands—Australia's 'forgotten' coral atolls in the Indian Ocean.

Ever since their occupation last century by two rival colonists and a band of slaves these islands have witnessed far more than their fair share of human conflict. They saw action in both World Wars and became international news again in 1978 when the Australian government bought them from the Clunies-Ross family for $A6.25 million.

This long-awaited publication has been generously funded by the Australian Bicentennial Authority and professionally designed and packaged by Jacaranda Wiley Ltd. (ISBN O 7016 2457 4).

Its author/photographer is a well-known Cocos identity who has successfully woven a wealth of previously unrecorded historical and cultural information around an absorbing account of life on a coral atoll. Ninety colourful photographs and line drawings accompany an easy-reading text.

All proceeds from the sale of this publication have been dedicated by the author to the Cocos Council for community development work.

Order your copy now—your cheque for $A20 (plus $A2.50 postage) to:

Book Orders, Cocos Council, Home Island,
Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Indian Ocean, Australia 6799.

KEY TO THE PICTURE CLUES

lapanganterbang	airport
kapalterbang	aeroplane
pramugari	air hostess
penerbang	pilot
pegawi bea-cukai	customs officer
suratkhabar	newspaper
cokelat	chocolate
beg pakaian	suitcase
barang-barang	luggage
bandar besar	city
tas tangan	handbag
menara	tower
keretas bas	bus
pelancung	tourist
polis	police
pintu	door
penumpang	passenger
tangga	steps
tas	case
jam	clock
bangku	desk
matahari	sun
pena	pen
bendera	flag
kamera	camera
bukit	hill
jadual waktu	timetable
talipun	telephone
sekuter	scooter

Cambodian Witness

by Someth May, Penguin Books, PO Box 257 Ringwood VIC 3134

I have recently served as an **Asian Studies Consultant** with the Education Department of Tasmania and I have acquired two special fields of interest within Asian Studies: post-1975 Cambodia and Indonesia/Indonesian.

It was with some enthusiasm that I read the complimentary copy of Cambodian Witness. The book's extremely comprehensive, instructive, understated/non-emotive use of language and simple sentence structure make it suitable for a wide range of readers. The common factor should only be that they have some interest in contemporary Cambodia and that they can withstand the vividly-described horror that was such a stark part of the Pol Pot years.

The novel is divided into three sections and I will comment just briefly on bits that I found the most instructive.

Part One of May's autobiography deals with life in Phnom Penh prior to the Khmer Rouge takeover. May's childhood was an essentially joyful, innocent one; though his strict, formalised, often harsh education in a Buddhist pagoda seemed to leave a lasting negative impression. The totality of life within the capital is carefully described, particularly the kaleidoscope of street life and unique Khmer marriage and funeral customs. May also uses stylish imagery in describing Khmer country life, mountains, valleys, the flora, fauna and people who made their living in these areas.

However, the charm of the country was overtaken by war and all its pernicious effects. The corruption and chaos became so embedded that most Cambodians actually welcomed Khmer Rouge occupation in the hope that stability would return.

It certainly did not. In the second section, entitled **Under the Khmer Rouge,** much of the barbarity is dealt with.

Khmer Rouge theory emphasised that *'if intellectual people survived their regime would one day collapse.'* By intellectual, the Khmer Rouge included anyone who was literate and foolishly discussed ideas. Hence terror and concomitant intense paranoia became the theme of daily life. May's family lived *'like hungry dogs'* in a Biafra-like atmosphere of abject ignorance, cruelty, starvation and disease where *'mosquitoes were so full they often couldn't fly.'* Men became impotent; women stopped menstruating; useless injections were given with rusty syringes stored in coke bottles; ubiquitous rats fed on faeces and the rapidly diminishing populace madly attempted to trap the rats and feed on them.

Yet, even within this era of incredibly depraved circumstances, there were acts of heroism that made it apparent that in some people human dignity could only be extinguished with death. Seventeen-year-old Comrade Chhith was such an example. The story of how he dared to stand up during an indoctrination session to ask the unit leader about 'equality' and the aim of 'revolution' and then have the audacity to sit amongst the guards and help himself to their ready supply of food should stun any reader.

The astonished, frustrated May notes how the *'famine was entirely man-made'* and that *'the weird thing about this peasant revolution was that none of the accumulated wisdom of the peasants went into it.'* The Khmer Rouge were *'choked with power'* and the entire society worked at a *'maximum capacity of inefficiency'* and outside the Battambang region *'the most fertile region of one of the most fertile countries in the world, (the inhabitants) were looking for any little creature in any little hole.'*

In 1979 disintegration and collapse came quickly as the Vietnamese invaded from the east. The starving were left on their own and it is incredible to note how initially they actually panicked at not having guards to direct their every movement and thought.

That panic, though, was quickly overcome. Anger took its place and when people located food to fuel that anger, the inevitable reprisals occurred.

Someth May found a piece of mirror during this time and looked into it. He was shocked to note:

'My cheeks were sunken. My skin was swarthy. I made some funny faces. My teeth were disgusting. The front ones, which the reconnaissance team had broken, were black and decayed. I couldn't get my face to work properly. If I tried to smile, it looked as if I was weeping.' (p. 233)

Luck, stealth and an actor's ability to disguise his literacy and relatively privileged background had allowed Someth May to survive. Having done so, what were he and his few surviving relatives to do?

The third Section is entitled **The Path to Exile.** Turbulence and danger didn't disappear with the Khmer Rouge collapse. Gangs formed largely around profitable, smuggling activities and Someth lived a brief life as a somewhat incompetent smuggler before moving into a refugee camp. His English-speaking background assisted him to gain eventual passage to the United States.

On the back cover of the novel there is a quote from John Rae of the Sunday Telegraph. It says —

'I hope that many people will read this book, not only as a reminder of what the world is anxious to forget, but also as a record of a brave man's determination to outwit and outlive the most murderous regime of the twentieth century.'

I can't imagine a more effective 'record' of the Khmer Rouge's 'murderous regime' than **Cambodian Witness.**

Steve Tolbert

Folk Tales of Malaysia

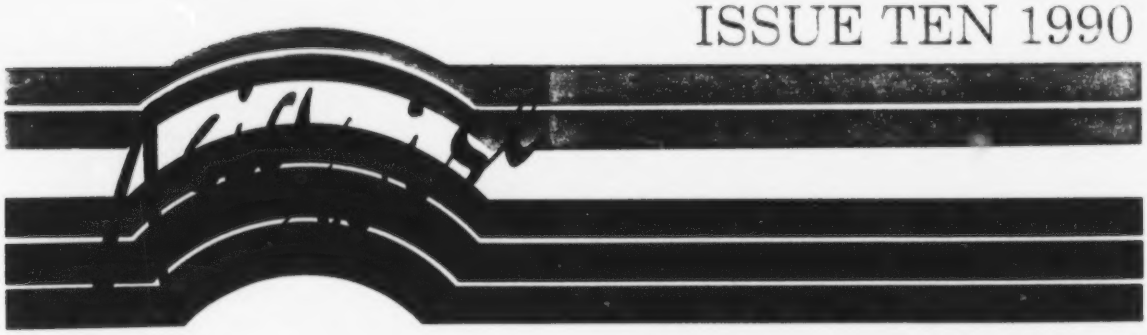
by Z Hitam, 1989. Macmillan publishers, 102 pages

The author has spent many years collecting traditional stories from the state of Pahang Malaysia. All 17 stories have strong moral overtones and would thus provide insight into traditional Malay thoughts and behavioural patterns.

Such stories as *Why Panthers have Long Tails; Pipit the Finch's Advice* and *How Kucing (the cat) became Harimau's (the tiger's) tutor* would be especially popular with junior secondary students.

However all the stories are short, easy-to-read, fast-moving and well illustrated. *Folk Tales of Malaysia* is a valuable addition to any Asian teacher's resource shelf!

ISSUE TEN 1990



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Looking to the future

When a year comes to a close, it is usual to look back at that year and consider whether or not it has been a good or bad one. It's just as normal to look forward to the future and to try to predict things which might or might not happen. It would be nice to predict the future, but *Asia Wise* is not put together by fortune-tellers. All we can say, with any confidence, is that the future will be in the hands of today's youth.

The world that the young people of Asia will inherit will be one marked by change. The Asia of today would be all but unrecognisable to someone living a hundred years ago. Today's Asia is marked by such huge contrasts — of rich and poor, of developed and developing economies, of technological advances and ancient cultures, of influences of the West and traditional values. The huge area of the world which we call Asia includes such advanced economic giants as Japan and poverty-stricken countries like Bangladesh. It includes the giant socialist power of China and the capitalist trading house of Singapore. Asia is, above all about a mix of people.

This great mix of people and cultures is developing at a very uneven pace. The rich countries, it would seem, are getting richer and the gap between rich and poor becoming greater. So, if the future is in the hands of youth, some are starting from a difficult position.

For millions of young people in Asia, the immediate future is hardly bright. According to figures produced by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, Asia and the

G Bergamini

Pacific are home to 72 percent of the world's illiterate population. Literacy campaigns have scored some successes but the actual numbers just continue to grow. At last count the number of people aged 15 and over who could neither read or write stood at 666 million. Another 100 million children aged 6 to 14 were not going to school.

Poverty and illiteracy go hand in hand. However the futures for generations of young people in the Asian region does not have to be a negative one. The economies of many Asian nations are more than healthy. With just a few exceptions the debt crisis affecting most of the developing world is not so great a problem in Asia. Ways must be found for the rising generation to share in the benefits of these booming economies.

The uneven development that is a feature of life in Asia is probably best seen from the point of view of education. In some countries the literacy rates are high. Almost all people have had access to education. In others the numbers of people with no education are staggering. Those countries who have achieved high levels of literacy are also leading the region and the world in economic growth and enjoy consistently rising standards of living. Japan is a good example. It leads the world in scientific and technological developments. This economic and technological growth goes hand in hand with its high educational standards. It would seem that it is hardly a coincidence that Bangladesh, as one of the poorest countries in Asia has a literacy rate of just 29 percent while Japan's stands at 99 percent.

Another problem with such an uneven development among the nations of Asia is that it is quite impossible to come up with neat answers to questions such as what do young people want from life. For some it might mean career options or life-style choices. For others it might mean simply finding food and shelter. For some it might be attempting to come to terms with environmental problems or population concerns. For others it might be finding work or planting a crop.

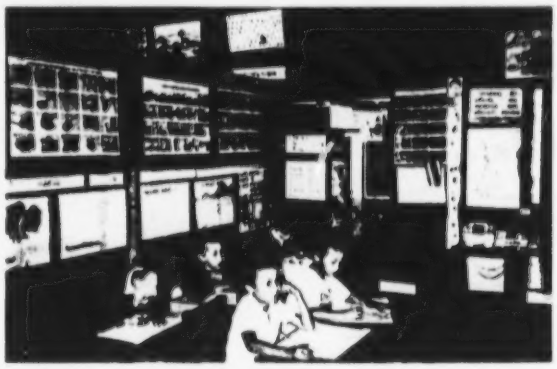
As we look at the questions of youth and young people in Asia, we need to remain aware of these sweeping differences. This issue of *Asia Wise*, then will look at a range of people and situations — of young people struggling to improve their world, of students, of an Australian's view of Japan — of the problems and perspectives of Asian youth.

In 1959, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the rights of the Child. It is a fine document and, if acted upon by all governments and people in the world would ensure that children would grow into adulthood free from oppression and hardship. Sadly, however, after more than 31 years, millions of children and young people do not enjoy those rights.

They are simple and basic. The ten principles of the Declaration have been condensed here.

1. All children shall enjoy equal rights regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political opinion, national or social origin.
2. All children shall enjoy special protection to enable them to develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and socially in freedom and dignity.
3. All children shall be entitled from birth to a name and nationality.
4. All children shall enjoy social security and be entitled to grow and develop in health. Children shall have the right to adequate nutrition, housing, recreation and medical services.
5. All children who are physically, mentally or socially handicapped shall be given the treatment, education and care required by their particular conditions.
6. All children need love and understanding. Wherever possible they should grow up in the care and under the responsibility of their parents, and in any case, in an atmosphere of affection and moral and material security. Young children shall not except in exceptional circumstances be separated from their mothers. It is the duty of society to provide care for children with no family and to those without adequate means of support.
7. All children have the right to an education which should be free and compulsory. Education should promote the culture of the child and, on the basis of equal opportunity, develop the individual abilities, judgement and sense of moral and social responsibility of the child. Children shall have full opportunity for play and recreation.
8. All children shall, in all circumstances, be among the first to receive protection and relief.
9. All children shall be protected against any form of neglect, cruelty and exploitation. No child shall be admitted to employment before an appropriate minimum age. Under no circumstance should children be forced or allowed to work in conditions which could prejudice health or education or interfere with physical, mental or moral development.
10. All children shall be protected from practices which may foster racial, religious or any other form of discrimination. Children shall be brought up in a spirit of understanding, tolerance, friendship among peoples and peace.

More than 30 years have passed since the signing of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. Much has been achieved in those years, but the fact remains that for millions of children, reality is cruelly different to the aims of the United Nations goals.



The situation in southern Asia is still appalling. Nearly 40 percent of all the children who die in the world each year, 45 percent of the children who are malnourished, 35 percent of those who are not in school and more than 50 percent of those who are in absolute poverty can be found in just three countries — India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Clearly this situation is unacceptable. In many instances the problems are becoming more acute. Many countries in the world face crippling debt problems. As the debt crisis worsens then so too do the problems for the children of the world. Fewer and fewer resources are available in many developing nations and often the first to suffer are those least able to resist — children. Some Asian countries are more seriously affected than others. Just how the world and the nations of Asia respond to questions of poverty and how well they equip their young people to face the future will determine the future of our world.

Community Aid Abroad

Youth and the future — East or West?

A great many obvious things are said concerning youth and growing up. Among these obvious things is the statement that youth is an uneasy time and that the process of youth taking its place in the world is never easy. The truth of this is never more obvious than in the developed countries of Asia.

Central to the dilemma of youth problems in these advanced economies is the question, 'Where do I belong?' Asian culture and values, although differing markedly from country to country share one important aspect. They are cultures and values which have been developing for centuries and often for thousands of years. The expectations of society in these countries has always been for young people to maintain the ancient cultures and traditions.

At the same time the last decades have seen dramatic changes in thinking and lifestyle for millions of people in the Asian region. The influence of Western culture and Western values has been profound. Should young people in Japan, for instance, hold fast to the old ways or totally embrace the new? Can they combine the two? These are the questions many are asking. They are difficult to answer. The pace of life in a country like Japan is speeding up. For many, such questions are made more difficult to answer because there is just not time.

To stay with Japan for a moment is to see the problems facing young people as they try to juggle two societies and two sets of beliefs. On the one hand, the country is a highly conformist, traditional society, and on the other hand the pressures of modern Western-style living bring new and very different demands. Since the end of the Second World War, Japan has been more and more dominated by Western and particularly American culture. Western culture has, increasingly been seen as youth-oriented. At the same time Japan has traditionally placed great importance on obedience and loyalty to first the emperor and later to employer, company and the group. Ideas of the importance of the individual were alien ideals. However these ideals are those so marked by the new culture spreading throughout much of Asia and it is a most difficult conflict to resolve.

But it would be wrong to simply say that life in the modern age is nothing but a string of problems and without positive aspects. If we look at China, for instance, we can see another Asian society with ancient traditional values. It is a society which has seen most dramatic changes in the last 40 years in particular and right throughout the century.

Young people in China have not only been in the forefront of these changes but have often been most affected by them. Some people might argue that these changes were not always of a positive nature, but there have been undeniably positive steps forward in many areas of development of the country. Perhaps the most obvious is in the fact that the chances for young people to grow to maturity have been greatly enhanced in the last 40 years. Educational opportunities are also major pluses

T Wolfe

from the last few decades of Chinese history.

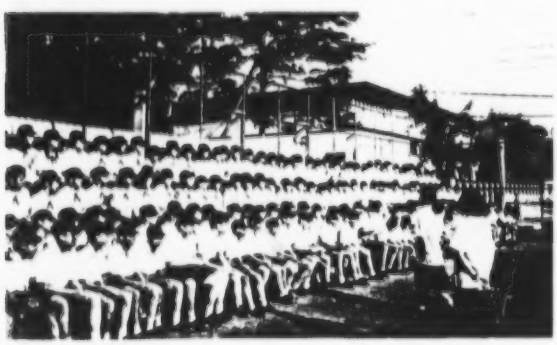
The traditional society was one marked by quite rigid codes of behaviour — respect for older people and in particular parents and to be courteous. If a child broke the rules then he or she was made to feel shame for their actions. The traditional family group was large and usually included grandparents. Sharing and cooperation made life that little bit easier. Today with strict government limits on family size, young people are growing up into a quite different world. Sharing and cooperation remain important issues in Chinese life, but the old and new Chinas are very different places.

China then like all societies in Asia is growing and changing. The difficulties these changes present for the younger generation are considerable as cultures merge and East meets West.

Kanyarath from Thailand — I like my school very much

Late in 1989, *Asia Wise* and an ABC film crew travelled to Thailand. Earlier this year Asia Wise television showed an interview with Kanyarath or Kenny as she is known. Kenny enjoys a life in Bangkok which is not entirely representative of all Thai people. Her position might be described as quite privileged. Just the same her comments about her life are most interesting.

'I come to school by car. The traffic is very heavy. I have to wake up about 5.30. I leave at about 6.00 or 6.30. Most of my friends do the same. My parents are both professionals. I have two sisters. The eldest is now studying for a masters degree in microbiology in England. My other sister is in her final year at uni here'.



Thai students practise their routines before the inter-high sports

There are about 1 000 students in her school. 'During my first two years biology and chemistry were run jointly but now we are specialising more and the two have been separated. I also must study Thai which is not easy — particularly the grammar. Then there is English and social studies. There are also sports lessons. Each semester we have different sports. Now it is volleyball and basketball'. The school is gearing up for its annual sports day.

Kenny learns the piano and has become quite good. When she was younger she studied Thai dance and music. She plays both classical and modern music and Thai pop music. 'I like to read in both Thai and English. I really like Roald Dahl'.

School in Thailand can be quite strict. For the first few years everyone must be involved in guides or scouts. During the last three years of school boys must undergo basic military training. The only exceptions are for those studying, say, medicine. 'The government is very strict about this. They say we have to be ready for emergency situations'.

Kenny has been learning English since she was 9. 'It's hard for Thais. My parents both speak English as they studied in England. I don't like them talking English to me at home but they do sometimes.

'We have seven lesson a week for English. Two of these are with an American teacher'. English is seen as an important language and there is much stress placed on learning it. French, German or Japanese are also regarded as important in Thailand.

'Last semester I learned a bit about Australia. My uncle lives in Canberra. Sometimes he sends me postcards. I know that Australia is the biggest island and the smallest continent and that you have very different animals and that there are more sheep than people'.

Kenny's school is very near the centre of Bangkok. 'I like my school very much. We are all friends. Even after school we are still close friends. It is of a very high standard from an educational point of view.'

'I go out with my family quite often. We might go to a restaurant and just chat'. Kenny's father is away from home quite a bit and so the weekends are important for the family to get together. 'Naturally we eat Thai food at home. It is very spicy but my family don't like it too hot. My favourite international food is French and Japanese. We have four Macdonalds here. One is quite near my home. Whenever I go shopping I always have a Macdonald.

'My friends and I don't meet up much on the weekends but we use the telephone a lot. I like listening to pop music — Thai and Western. Particularly English and American. I am a big fan of Tom Cruise and also Jason Donovan and Kylie Minogue. I have seen *Neighbours* on television. Most of my friends prefer Thai pop music'.

Kenny thinks of Australia as a neighbour. 'It is close to South-East Asia but culturally it is very different'. In many ways Kenny's life is pretty much like many young Australians. She agrees that it is good to get to know as much as possible about different people and different cultures.

Students prepare Kralbongs for the November festival

Bill from China — I think I prefer school in Australia

Bill Wang is 11 years old and is a primary school student in Tasmania. His first few years at school were spent a long way from Australia. He was born in the People's Republic of China and only arrived in Australia at the end of 1989. When asked about how he liked the Australian school system and what the Chinese system was like he was quick to show his new English language skills.

Chinese children begin the process of education from as young as three years old when they start at kindergarten. From the age of five, children are sent to pre-school and then begin primary school education at age six, like in Australia. The years between primary school and university are split between junior and senior middle school. Each of the middle school periods are for three years.

D Wang

The Chinese education system is organised around what is known as a nation-wide curriculum. This means that in primary and the middle school the same text books are used and subjects are taught in all schools in the country. The main subjects taught in primary school are maths and Chinese as well as music, handicrafts, history, geography and sport. Classes are often quite big in Chinese schools with 40-50 students in a class. These are usually divided into groups of five or six. Each of these groups has special duties to do like keeping the room clean after school.

The middle school student has a wider variety of subjects including chemistry, physics, biology, foreign languages (English is the most widely taught) and political education. All students have political education from the first grade in primary school.

The school day is quite long, starting at 8.00am and going until 4.00pm from Monday to Friday and from 8.00am until noon on Saturday. There is usually about an hour of homework to be done at school after the lessons finish and another hour at home. Homework has to be done even on Saturday and Sunday. You have to keep your nose in the books because teachers set extra work on weekends. In middle school there is even homework set for the holidays.

There is a lot of pressure to pass exams. End of year exams are important and you must get 60 per-

D Wang

cent to pass. If you don't then you stay in the same class for another year until you manage to pass. Another pressure is the entrance exam to get from primary to junior middle school and from junior to senior middle school. Very few students get to go on to university as the entrance examination is very tough. Probably only six percent get to go on. The entrance exam is a national one held each year.

The school year is broken into two terms. Term one begins in September and lasts for nearly five months until mid-winter — a few days before the Spring Festival or Chinese New Year. The second term runs until mid-July. There are two holiday breaks. The first is in winter and lasts for three weeks and a longer summer break from mid-July until the beginning of September. The holidays were the best time of the year even though I still had to

Homework's the same everywhere — D Wang

study. In summer I went swimming and went ice-skating in winter. During school terms there are other sports activities, although for only two hours a week.

I think I prefer school here in Australia. There is not as much pressure and much more outdoor activity during school time. I've learned a lot of new sports and games and particularly like Australian football. I get special help with my English and am really enjoying my school, my teachers and classmates.

Bill Wang 11

Childhood in the Philippines

This year is International Literacy Year. The sad thing about having a special year to promote ideas like this is that there is a need at all. But the fact is that millions around the world and in Asia are forced to go through their lives never having learned how to read or write. Illiteracy and poverty go hand in hand. It doesn't really matter how rich the country is, if you are unable to read or write then you have very few opportunities of succeeding. A survey conducted in Victoria in 1986 showed an official unemployment rate of 7.3 percent. However, of those people involved in adult literacy courses, more than 27 percent were unemployed.

At the same time, things are not necessarily all grim. Many advances are being made in the struggle against illiteracy. The case of Ohariza, a 12 year old girl in Quezon city in the Philippines, abridged from Kids Contact and Nina, a village child, taken from the QANTAS publication Children in Asia shows that with basic education can come hope.

Life for the urban poor . . .

Ohariza lives in a squatter camp. Her family consider themselves fortunate that they have electricity. Life for many is very hard. Ohariza gets up at 4.00am every morning. She heads for the local market to buy some fish and rice which she then cooks for her school lunch. The rice is taken in a plastic container. The fish is wrapped in a banana leaf. When this is done and a quick breakfast is eaten, she leaves for school which begins at 6.00am.

The conditions at school are difficult. The day is split into three shifts as there are too many children and too little space. The first shift is from 6 to 11am, the next from 11 to 4pm and finally from 4 to 9pm. There is one teacher for every 50 students. The school is very poor. The children are asked to help supply even the most simple things to help things along. Ohariza has just supplied a box of chalk as the teacher had none and the school could not afford any. She enjoys school and despite the very basic education she is getting, she will have far more chances in life than many of her neighbours who never get even these limited opportunities. — **Paul Kulikovsky**

(K.Allan)

Kids Contact is available from Australian Freedom from Hunger Campaign, 155 Pirie St, Adelaide SA 5000

. . . and for a village girl

Nina Perilla is a ten year old girl from a small Filipino village which lies 300 kilometres south-west of Manila.

The village is set amongst very picturesque surroundings and it's main crops include rice, sugar cane and various breeds of tropical fruits, all of which form the basis of the local economy.

The standard of living in Nina's village is not all that high. Most houses are made from unpainted timber, wooden shutters and corrugated iron. There are village water tanks that collect the rain for the village to drink.

In comparison to the other 200 families in the village Nina's is poor. Her father died when she was only two so it was left to her mother and grandparents to bring up Nina and her two brothers. Her grandfather spends his day chopping firewood while her grandmother sells vegetables in the village. The children see very little of their mother as she works in a factory on the outskirts of Manila and only comes home for one day a week.

The children all have their household tasks to complete and as well as that they also attend school. Nina is in grade five. She is a good student and her favourite subject is Pilipino, the national language of the Philippines. She hopes to complete high school but it is unlikely that her family will be able to afford a college education for her.

During her two month summer school holidays Nina spends some time baby-sitting for neighbours as well as cooking, cleaning, washing and playing with other children. Nina's friends enjoy simple leisure activities. They do not own any expensive toys.

Nina may have to go without things which many children take for granted. Life for Nina and her family and friends goes on as it has for generations. But with changes coming to her world, the future is less certain.

Young Australian in Japan

In the first issue of Asia Wise for 1990, we mentioned that an Australian student, Kim Rowlands, was heading to Japan to study for 12 months as part of the AFS program. Asia Wise has just received a letter from Kim and we thought it would be good to share part of it with you.

The first thing that struck me getting off the plane were the crowds. We all hear how crowded Japan is but I never expected to be stepping into a sardine can. The trip began with a ten day camp at the National Youth Centre of Japan. The camp is bordered on two sides by the city and on the other by Yoyogi Park — one of the biggest in the country — and by the famous Meiji Shrine. So even though we couldn't believe we were here it was just a matter of looking out the window to see such obvious signs of Japan.

The first thing we had to do was visit the shrine. It's just as beautiful as in the pictures.

Just walking around can be quite a shock. There are so many things which strike you as being very different. For instance it was odd to see people going about with little masks over their faces — a bit like surgical masks. At first I thought it was because they didn't like the air or that they were asthmatics, but then I found out it was because they had colds and didn't want to spread it around. At the same time it is common to see people spitting or littering.

S Barnes

We all know that Japan has become quite Westernised. English is spoken by a great many Japanese and signs in English are everywhere. Often there are big spelling mistakes on these signs and on English writing on clothes and accessories. People are very keen to try out their English on me. Because of the large numbers of Americans in Japan, the first assumption is that I am from America.

English is compulsory in schools from year seven on. There are even some kindergartens with courses in English. Being able to speak English is often a sort of gauge of how intelligent you are thought to be. It works in reverse as well. Speak just one word of Japanese and you get loads of praise. It's as though they consider the language too difficult for *gaijin* or foreigners to pick up.

Going to school in Japan is a bit of an endurance test. My day starts at about 6.30am when I leave home to catch the first of three different trains. I finally get to school by 8.20. The school day goes until 3.30pm and, if I'm lucky, I manage to get home by about 5.30pm. Train travel here is quite an experience. I've yet to see a train running late and they are always packed. It took a while to work out that your best bet is to get the back carriage. The middle ones are even more crowded. I've seen people asleep but standing up in the crush. The railways seem very safe. Just what sort of toll there would be if one crashed is too awful to think about.

My school is a private academic school. Great emphasis is placed on study and doing well. About 80 percent of my class of 48 students go to extra tuition or *juku*. after normal lessons. Those who don't go generally can't afford it. A lot of things in Japan are expensive and education is no exception. While my school and class is co-educational, boys and girls do not mix very much.

T Wolfe

The house where I live is average, but small by Australian standards. Any home with more than two bedrooms is considered big. The family is still very important in Japan and a big effort goes into promoting a positive 'family image'.

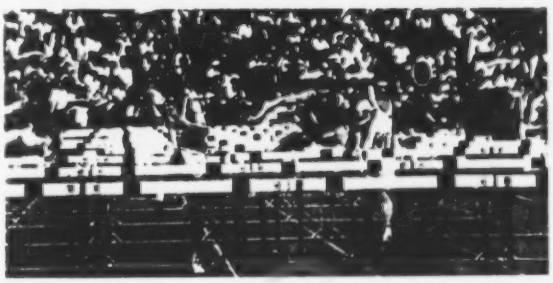
It's still a bit strange living in a country so unlike Australia, but I am very pleased to be here. I can't speak too highly of the AFS program which helps understanding between people so much.

S Barnes

Vietamese martial arts

As in many Asian countries, martial arts is a popular sport in Vietnam. The Vietnamese version is *vo*. Vietnam's top exponent of this form of self defence is Ngo Xuan Binh. He may look harmless enough strolling around Hanoi, but for more than 10 years has been number one.

Vo is a mix of many martial arts. As Binh says 'take the kicks of karate, the throws of judo and the parrying of kung fu — vo combines them all.' Binh comes from a family of vo teachers. There are 100 different vo moves which must be mastered. The easiest can be picked up in about six months. It takes up to 12 years to have the whole lot under your belt. Binh became a professor of vo at the age of 26 and has taught some 1 200 students. In 1983 there were only about 16 people involved in vo in Hanoi. The number has jumped to more than 5 000 — due largely to the work of this energetic young man.



Special schools for athletes

The years following the Chinese revolution saw the government pay more and more attention to sport and physical education for its millions of young people. It has been a policy which has paid good dividends. As a result of this increased enthusiasm and participation in sports, Chinese athletes have emerged as rising stars in such events as table tennis, women's volleyball, badminton, gymnastics, wrestling, diving, weight-lifting, and *wushu* or martial arts.

In the past the Chinese made few major contributions to the world of sports and had little to boast of in the area of great sporting achievements. However, more recently the world has begun to recognise the developments of Chinese sportsmen and women. The country burst onto the world sporting scene in 1983 when Chinese athletes broke 264 world records and won 122 world championship titles. Credit for the recent successes of Chinese athletes is attributed to China's 3,721 spare-time sports schools who accommodate 330,000 students across the land.

We all know that the standard of sports achievement is constantly growing and that skills levels have become more complex. At the same time the average age of top athletes in many fields is becoming younger. Chinese authorities have been aware of this for some time. The first sports school was established in 1955 and various institutions have been established to help young Chinese develop the necessary skills ever since that time.

The schools for sport are used to coach students from ordinary schools after their normal classes and also train physical education teachers for schools. In addition, they provide government-paid room and board with regular academic studies as well as physical training for athletes on a professional level.

Three categories of education within the school of sports training system exist with the highest category enlisting the best in the country. It is possible for students as young as 4-8 years old to enrol in a special kindergarten gym class. They may then enter junior school but special examinations must be passed in order for the student to be accepted into the professional school.

According to the standards of one particular school in China, life for the student of these professional schools is a great deal more strenuous than at the normal Chinese school. A typical day at the Beijing Shashahai Sports School, for instance, begins at 6.00am with morning exercises. Normal classes then begin. After lunch there is at least three hours of training. The evenings are spent in collective activities or preparing for the next day's lessons. While this may sound pretty tough, it's the only way for the budding sportsman or woman to get ahead.

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TEACHERS' ACTION

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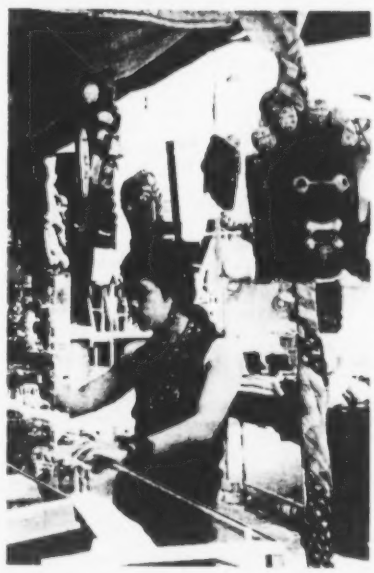
Asian youth — problems and perspectives

As the headline above this article suggests, this issue of *Asia Wise* — our last issue for 1990, will be examining the question of youth in Asia. It is a subject which is complex enough at the best of times. Youth and the aspirations of young people have been the subject of debate and query since time began. Any rising generation has tended to question the ways of the older generation. It is natural. Without questioning things, forward progress would never have been possible. But Asia and the issues facing young people in this massive region presents a whole set of new difficulties.

The first of these difficulties lies in a simple matter of geography. The region known as Asia is so diverse — ranging as it does from Pakistan to the Philippines and from Indonesia to Japan. Alongside this sweep of countries is a maze of cultural differences. Then there are major differences in the ways Asian nations are organised politically. The range covers countries with a socialist orientation, capitalist powers, monarchies and those emerging from feudal regimes. There are countries with colonial legacies and those virtually untouched by foreign intervention. Perhaps even more obvious, however, is the uneven levels of development within the region. Asia includes some of the most prosperous, boom economies in the world and some of the most destitute peoples on earth. Such is the situation of Asia and it is this often confused and uncertain world which the youth of Asia will inherit.

The situation, in the immediate future, for millions of young people in Asia looks decidedly bleak. A recent report from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural



Organisation, has indicated that the Asian and Pacific region is currently home to 72 percent of the world's illiterate population. While various literacy campaigns have scored some quite dramatic successes in recent years, the actual numbers of those who remain illiterate continue to rise. The numbers of those who can neither read or write currently stand at more than 666 million.

A future marked by poverty and potential despair awaits many. It is a scenario which is mirrored across much of the developing world. Indebtedness to the rich nations, however, which is strangling the aspirations of millions in Africa and South America, is not so much a determining factor in much of Asia. The debt crisis or debt trap as it is now being described affects most Asian countries far less than the other developing regions. The economies of Asia are, by and large, boom economies and yet desperate poverty exists. For the hopes and aspirations of young Asians to be realised it is necessary that the fruits of the new-found prosperity of some of these nations be more equitably distributed.

But, while millions of young people in Asia look forward, not to bright futures, but rather on how to eke out a living, millions more are enjoying the fruits of prosperity. For these people, life presents new challenges and new obstacles. The choice of paths to take becomes difficult. Culturally the Asian countries are rich. Their heritage spans centuries. The lure of the West is a powerful one. The rising generation in Japan, for instance, is among the most Westernised of Asian people. Japanese youth, along with young people in Singapore, and Hong Kong, have become very much the target for the advertising companies.

Western culture has developed very much along youth-oriented lines. This poses some questions for Asian societies. Traditional values are still strong. In what direction should the youth of Asia move — East or West? Should they hold to the old ways which have been developing for hundreds, if not thousands, of years or should they follow the lure of the new ways of Western development? These are questions which will affect millions of young lives and the direction of the most populous region in the world.

Asia Wise, in this final issue for the year looks at some of the problems and perspectives facing young people in Asia. It also looks at individuals in the region — across the gulf of economic, cultural and political barriers separating people.

Children in Asia datafile

	POPULATION					EDUCATION					HEALTH & NUTRITION								
	total millions 1988	under 1 mortality rate (1000 1988	under 5 mortality rate (1000 1988	% under 15 1988	annual growth rate 1980-1987	adult literacy 1985	% complete primary 1985-1987	secondary ratio male/female 1986-1988	university students ('000)	literacy male/female 1985	% safe water 1985-7 urban/rural	% health services 1985-7 urban/rural	% of 1 yr olds immunised 1987/88 polio/measles	% of 1 yr olds immunised 1987/88 TB/DPT	ORS use rate 1986-1987	% 0-4yrs underweight 1980-1987	% breast feed at 3 months 1980-1987	daily calorie supply per capita 1986	% below poverty level (1987) urban/rural
CAMBODIA	7.9	127	199	35	2.6	75	50	45/20	—	85/65	10/2	80/50	45/38	58/45	5.8	23	100	—	-/-
NEPAL	18.2	127	197	41	2.6	26	28	35/11	65	39/12	70/25	-/-	71/52	91/71	14.0	—	92	2 052	55/61
BHUTAN	1.5	127	197	40	1.9	—	—	7/2	7	-/-	-/19	total65	76/36	86/70	40.0	—	—	—	-/-
BANGLADESH	109.6	118	188	46	2.7	33	20	24/11	44	43/22	24/49	total45	16/13	26/16	15.0	69	91	1 927	86/86
PAKISTAN	114.9	108	166	43	3.7	30	49	26/11	550	40/19	83/27	99/35	64/55	77/64	41.5	49	—	2 315	32/29
LAOS	3.8	109	159	43	2.1	84	14	23/16	20	92/76	28/20	total67	17/19	27/17	7.3	37	—	2 391	-/-
INDIA	818.8	98	149	38	2.2	43	—	50/27	3 800	57/29	76/50	-/-	64/44	72/73	12.0	47	—	2 238	40/51
INDONESIA	175.0	84	119	40	1.8	74	80	-/-	1 440	83/65	43/36	total80	70/61	82/69	55.0	52	98	2 579	26/44
MYANMAR	40.0	69	95	39	2.1	84	27	-/-	211	-/-	36/24	100/11	13/14	45/23	21.1	38	—	2 609	40/40
VIETNAM	64.2	63	88	40	2.2	84	50	44/41	—	88/80	70/39	100/75	58/54	64/56	20.0	65	—	2 297	6/-
PHILIPPINES	59.5	44	73	39	2.6	86	75	66/66	2 050	86/85	49/54	-/-	78/77	95/79	10.0	33	79	2 372	50/64
THAILAND	54.1	38	49	36	1.8	91	64	-/-	181	94/88	56/66	total70	80/60	97/80	30.0	30	83	2 331	15/34
SRI LANKA	16.8	32	41	35	1.6	87	88	63/69	20	91/83	82/29	total93	85/68	81/83	34.6	47	94	2 400	-/-
CHINA	1104.0	31	43	29	1.3	69	68	50/37	2 000	82/56	85/-	-/-	95/95	98/96	5.0	—	70	2 630	-/10
NORTH KOREA	21.9	24	31	39	2.4	—	99	-/-	—	-/-	-/-	-/-	70/35	69/62	0.2	—	—	—	-/-
SOUTH KOREA	42.6	24	31	30	1.4	92	99	91/86	1 100	96/88	90/48	97/86	87/96	86/86	—	—	58	2 907	18/11
MALAYSIA	16.6	24	32	37	2.3	74	97	59/59	48	81/66	96/76	-/-	72/54	96/72	10.6	—	88	2 730	13/38
SINGAPORE	2.6	9	12	24	1.1	86	95	70/73	45	93/79	100/-	100/-	97/94	92/98	—	—	—	2 840	-/-
AUSTRALIA	16.4	9	10	23	1.3	—	—	96/99	180	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/68	-/-	—	—	56	3 326	-/-
HONG KONG	5.7	8	10	23	1.5	88	98	71/76	33	95/81	-/-	-/-	86/85	99/94	—	—	—	2 859	-/-
JAPAN	122.4	5	8	21	0.6	—	99	95/97	1 990	-/-	-/-	-/-	95/73	85/83	—	—	72	2 864	-/-

Sources: *The State of the World's Children 1990*, UNICEF
Asia Yearbook 1989, Far Eastern Economic Review

The convention on the rights of the child

At the end of 1989 after ten years of exhaustive consultation, the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* was brought for adoption to the General Assembly of the United Nations. The convention aims to set universal standards for the defence of children against neglect, exploitation and abuse.

The rights enshrined in the Convention apply equally to all children, without regard to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status. Another fundamental principle is that the 'best interests' of the child should be used as the touchstone for all decisions affecting children's health, well-being and dignity.

The provisions of the convention apply to three main areas of children's rights: **survival**, **development** and **protection**.

- **Survival**: The first specific right mentioned is the inherent right to life. States must ensure, 'to the maximum possible, the survival and development of the child'. The Convention recognises the right of access to health care services (such as immunisation and oral rehydration therapy), and to an adequate standard of living (including food, clean water, and a place to live). In addition, the child has the right to a name and a nationality.

- **Development:** To allow every individual the chance to develop to his or her potential, the convention contains provisions relating to the child's right to education, rest and leisure, to freedom of expression and information, and to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. It also stipulates that parents shall give 'due weight' to the views of children, in accordance with their age and maturity.

- **Protection**: many of the Convention's provisions are designed to provide protection for children in a wide range of circumstances. Some deal with mentally or physically disabled children, others with refugees or parentless children, or with children who are separated from their parents. It also recognises that, in some cases, children need to be protected from their own parents, or may be in a situation where parents may be unable to take proper care of them.

The convention also covers economic, sexual and other forms of child exploitation, and requires that appropriate measures to be taken to protect children from the use and sale of drugs. In addition it sets out the rights of children in times of armed conflict, and of children who are in trouble with the law.

Source: **UNICEF, *The State of the World's Child, 1990*, Oxford University Press, UK**

Goals for the year 2000

The United Nations has prepared this list of child-related goals that are considered to be both technically feasible and financially affordable over the course of the next decade.

Overall goals 1990-2000

- A one-third reduction in under-five death rates (or a reduction to below 70 per 1 000 live births — whichever is less).
- A halving of maternal mortality rates.
- Safe water and sanitation for all families.
- Basic education for all children and completion of primary education by at least 80 percent.
- A halving of adult illiteracy rates and equal education opportunity for males and females.
- Protection for the many millions of children in especially difficult circumstances and the acceptance and observance in all countries, of the recently adopted *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. In particular, growing acceptance of the idea of special protection for children in time of war.

The goals relating to the protection for girls and women and aspects such as nutrition, child health and education are further elaborated upon on page 4 of the publication.

The principle of first call

The foundation for the arch of protection which could now be constructed over the great majority of the world's children is a new priority, a '**first call**', for children. So important is this principle that in UNICEF's view, it should increasingly come to influence the direction and nature of progress in all nations over the next decade and beyond.

In essence, it implies that the growing minds and bodies of children should have first call on our societies and that children should be able to depend upon that commitment in good times and in bad.

Transl: ed into specifics, it means that whether a child survives or not, whether a child is well-nourished or not, whether a child is immunised or not, whether a child has a school to go to or not, should not have to depend on whether interest rates rise or fall, on whether commodity prices go up or down, on whether a particular political party is in power, on whether the economy has been well managed or not, on whether a country is at war or not, or on any other trough or crest in the endless and inevitable undulations of political and economic life in the modern nation state.

(page 5, *World Summit for Children*)

Source: **UNICEF, *The World Summit for Children* P&LA Benson, UK**

1 — Survival

The first specific right is the inherent right to life. States must ensure, 'to the maximum possible, the survival and development of the child'.

ASIAWEEK looks at a village of 100 households

Imagine the entire population of the planet as a village of 100 households. Six of the families would own half the village and they would receive half the community's income.

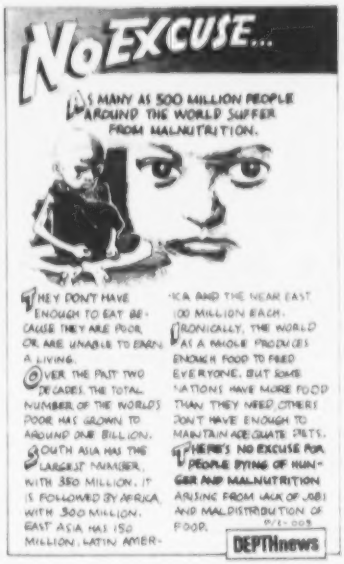
The other 94 would share 50% of the money, but by no means equally. At the village school, the children of 71 families would join those from the six wealthy families, but kids from 23 homes would attend no classes, read no books, write no letters.

The six rich families would live in spacious, comfortable and well-appointed homes, while another 34 houses in the village would at least have glass window panes and passable plumbing. But 60 would be either built of home-made mud bricks or patched together with flattened kerosene tins, packing cases and salvaged planks.

Only 50 families would regularly go to bed with full stomachs. The others would be hungry nearly all the time.

Out of every 100 babies born in the village, 15 would never celebrate their fifth birthday. They would die, chiefly of easily preventable conditions like diarrhoea and measles.

(This article is one in an excellent series entitled *In Good Company* and appeared on page 60, 31 August, 1990)


NO EXCUSE...
AS MANY AS 500 MILLION PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD SUFFER FROM MALNUTRITION.
THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT BECAUSE THEY ARE POOR, OR ARE UNABLE TO EARN A LIVING.
OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF THE WORLD'S POOR HAS GROWN TO AROUND ONE BILLION.
SOUTH ASIA HAS THE LARGEST NUMBER, WITH 350 MILLION. IT IS FOLLOWED BY AFRICA WITH 300 MILLION. EAST ASIA HAS 150 MILLION, LATIN AMERICA AND THE NEAR EAST 100 MILLION EACH.
IRONICALLY, THE WORLD AS A WHOLE PRODUCES ENOUGH FOOD TO FEED EVERYONE, BUT SOME NATIONS HAVE MORE FOOD THAN THEY NEED, OTHERS DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE DIETS.
THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR PEOPLE DYING OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION ARISING FROM LACK OF JOBS AND MALDISTRIBUTION OF FOOD.
DEPTHnews

Bombay street children master art of survival —*Prakash Chandra (DEPTHnews)*

By collecting, grading and selling junk, Bombay's street children not only earn a living. Theirs is not a success story. But more than 3 000 children between the ages of six and 19 have learned the art of survival in this city where nine million people toil from the early hours until late at night to eke out a living.

John Ribero, Ram and Mohan are typical of the children you would find in a Bombay street.They wake up early to wash cars or pots and pans in a wayside eatery, work as domestic servants or as errand boys. By choice, most of the children are rag-pickers. Ten-year old Mohan says, 'It's not a bad life. We pick whatever comes our way. And sometimes we can find a small transistor radio and even a piece of jewellery that has been carelessly thrown away.'

The children sleep almost anywhere — footpaths, stations, mosques and temples. Mohan revealed that many of the children at the railway station are picked up for trespassing, vagrancy or merely suspicion and thrown into gaol with common criminals, often for as long as 15 days.

Two catholic priests working in the area have establish an open house called 'Shelter'. Shelter is attempting to set up co-operative groups of 30 boys or so (girls do not last long as they are usually picked up and pushed into prostitution). To cut out the middlemen, Shelter's children have formed a cooperative called 'Our Shop' where they sell scrap directly to the end-user. Some have even opened savings accounts in banks. An important thing is that the children have decided to get together frequently and discuss their problems.

Education for survival of poor children—*Ian Steele*

With the developments such as low-cost immunisation programs and safe water supplies the lives of millions of children are being saved each year. But what kind of future does the world offer these survivors? UNICEF and others have started to ask: Survival for what?

Are we saving these children for battlefields, for stunted physical and mental growth that goes with hunger and malnutrition , for life in the slums and overpopulated cities?

Aid agencies and policymakers have to consider these questions. Under the stress of declining export earnings and heavy interest repayments on debts, living standards and educational opportunities are worse today than they were a decade ago.
(DEPTHnews)

Preventable diseases claim heavy toll of Bangla children — *Alamgir Hossain (DEPTHnews)*

In a country where five children are born every minute, 2 300 children die every day. The children who survive face a world of poverty.

It is here, in the world's third poorest country where six percent of the world's child deaths occur. Poverty and inadequate resources are the main reasons. Six million out of 13.8 million households are landless, thousands of children live in poverty, malnutrition and hunger. Three-fourths of the rural poor spend less than 28 cents for their daily diet. Only five percent have adequate food.

Diarrhoea claims 250 000 Bangladeshi children each year, tetanus 223 000 and measles 20-40 000. However, progress is starting to be made with the help of the United Nations Development Program. Oral Rehydration Therapy is being promoted as a treatment for diarrhoea. The target for child immunisation during 1990 is four out of five children. The immunisation program covers six preventable diseases: tetanus, tuberculosis, whooping cough, polio, diptheria and measles.

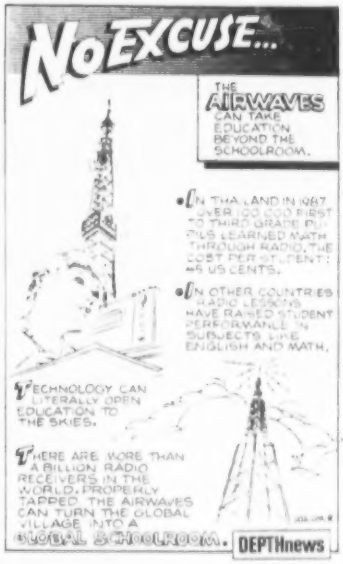
2 — Development

The Convention contains provisions relating to the child's right to education, rest and leisure, freedom of expression and information, and to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

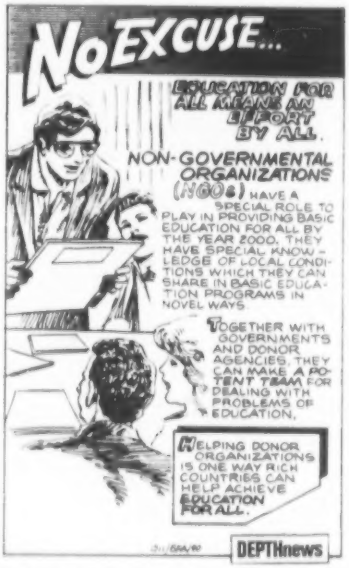
World Bank doubles loan for education *Linda Bolido (DEPTHnews)*
Following the World Conference on Education for All (WCEFA) held in Thailand in March the World Bank has increased its loans for education to nearly $US2 billion.

The major goal of WCEFA was to find ways of helping governments make education a number one priority. Delegates adopted a Declaration that stressed that education for all is attainable, but it acknowledged that major obstacles stand in the way, including mounting foreign debt, rapid population growth, widespread environmental degradation, preventable death of millions of children, war, civil strife and violent crime. (Read more about the Conference aims in Asia Wise Issue 3, 1990 Focus on Asian Women – education)

These three posters were prepared by DEPTHnews for the World Conference on Education


NO EXCUSE...
THE AIRWAVES CAN TAKE EDUCATION BEYOND THE SCHOOLROOM.
IN THAILAND IN 1987 OVER 100 000 FIRST & THIRD GRADE PUPILS LEARNED MATH THROUGH RADIO. THE COST PER STUDENT: 45 US CENTS.
IN OTHER COUNTRIES RADIO LESSONS HAVE RAISED STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN SUBJECTS LIKE ENGLISH AND MATH.
TECHNOLOGY CAN LITERALLY OPEN EDUCATION TO THE SKIES.
THERE ARE MORE THAN A BILLION RADIO RECEIVERS IN THE WORLD. PROPERLY TAPPED, THE AIRWAVES CAN TURN THE GLOBAL VILLAGE INTO A GLOBAL SCHOOLROOM.
DEPTHnews

NO EXCUSE...
PRIMARY EDUCATION IS THE BASIS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.
IT IMPROVES WORKER PRODUCTIVITY AND GIVES SKILLS FOR SELF-IMPROVEMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP.
YET PRIMARY EDUCATION HAS BEEN LOSING GROUND. IN MANY POOR COUNTRIES LESS THAN SIX OUT OF EVERY 10 CHILDREN COMPLETE THE COURSE, AND THE QUALITY OF THEIR EDUCATION MAY BE SO LOW, EVEN THOSE WHO FINISH DO NOT MEET ACADEMIC STANDARDS.
TEACHERS ALSO MAY BE POORLY TRAINED AND SUPPORTED.
BUT THESE PROBLEMS HAVE NOT KILLED ENTHUSIASM TO LEARN.
THIS ENTHUSIASM SHOULD BE TAPPED THROUGH CREATIVE PROGRAMS FOR BASIC EDUCATION.
IN SRI LANKA, PARENTS HELPED TO MAKE TEACHING MATERIALS FOR SCHOOLS.
IN THE MIDDLE EAST THERE ARE STUDENTS EVEN IN WAR ZONES AND REFUGEE CAMPS.
BASIC EDUCATION IS ONE OF THE GREATEST INVESTMENTS A COUNTRY CAN MAKE.
DEPTHnews


NO EXCUSE...
EDUCATION FOR ALL MEANS AN EFFORT BY ALL.
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) HAVE A SPECIAL ROLE TO PLAY IN PROVIDING BASIC EDUCATION FOR ALL BY THE YEAR 2000. THEY HAVE SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL CONDITIONS WHICH THEY CAN SHARE IN BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN NOVEL WAYS.
TOGETHER WITH GOVERNMENTS AND DONOR AGENCIES, THEY CAN MAKE A POTENT TEAM FOR DEALING WITH PROBLEMS OF EDUCATION.
HELPING DONOR ORGANIZATIONS IN ONE WAY RICH COUNTRIES CAN HELP ACHIEVE EDUCATION FOR ALL.
DEPTHnews

Kathmandu offers girls incentive to attend school
Jan Sharma (DEPTHnews)
Nine-year-old Nimi often wonders why she does not go to school as the daughters of the landlords do. She comes from a small village in Sindhukot east of Kathmandu Valley. Her father is dead, and her mother owns a piece of land barely enough to support the family for half the year.

'We are poor people,' Nimi herself would explain. However, recently, the Government announced plans for an incentive program to enable girls like Nimi to study so they could aspire to a better life. The program provides for a yearly allowance of about $A13.00 to 5 out of every 100 girls enrolled in primary school and another five girls receive about $A1.

Statistics show that in Nepal in 1986-7 girls made up only a little over one-fourth of the 2.4 million children enrolled in primary and secondary schools. They also had the highest dropout rates. As an added incentive a system of providing free textbooks for girls in primary schools is to be introduced.

Another reason for the low enrolment of girls is the small number of female teachers. Orthodox parents may refuse to have their daughters tutored by a man. To combat this, with support from the United Nations, Nepal has introduced a program of teacher training for women. Those selected receive free teacher training.

Free vocational training for Bangla Street Children
Ziaur Rahman (DEPTHnews)
Seeing children crushing stones and bricks along the roadside, Bangladesh President Ershad was moved to set up a project to send working children to school.

These are no ordinary schools. They are schools primarily meant for children who toil as day labourers, some in brickfields, some in automobile workshops or garages, some in roadside shops or restaurants.

Seeing the children at work the President hit on the idea that although it might not be possible for the government to abolish child labour altogether, it could certainly could provide them with a basic education and vocational training. The Ministry of Education moved quickly and the President helped to get the project moving with a personal donation of $US45 000.

The project has done well. By 1989 there were 70 of the schools throughout the country for over 10 000 children. By now the figures were expected to treble. Observers have been impressed with the growing mood of confidence and purposefulness of the working children in these schools. Since they attend classes in shifts — most schools have two — they are able to continue working to support their families but they also know they will now have a chance of doing something better in the future.

3 — Protection

These provisions are designed to provide protection for children in a wide range of circumstances. Areas of concern include the physically or mentally disabled, refugees, parentless or children separated from their parents, those subject to exploitation and those involved in armed conflict or in trouble with the law.

Children at work ... Children in distress

Reproduced from the UNICEF publication Children and the environment, The state of the environment — 1990

Since the beginnings of farming, children have worked in agriculture. They continue to do so today — hoeing, seeding, weeding, spreading fertilizers and pesticides, harvesting, threshing — and then bringing the crops to market. Girls may labour at home, fetching water, cleaning, cooking, feeding domestic animals, milking, cleaning out stables and processing dung cakes for fuel. Even small children gather firewood and crop residues for home use.

Parents who do not need their children's labour may hire them out to neighbouring farmers. In this way the children often contribute to the family income. To the very poor, this type of child labour is not seen as exploitative, but as an economic fact of life or even a benign influence on children because it teaches them responsibility at an early age.

The work is back-breaking. Children as young as six labour for long hours for half or one third the adult wage. Most work barefoot in the fields, exposed to parasites and communicable diseases. They are undernourished, making them particularly vulnerable to the effects of pesticides.

Many rural areas have more children than they can support. So parents send their children to work in households in nearby towns, for agreed monthly wages. Where land degradation and desertification have destroyed arable land migration may be the only option.

Many of these environmental refugees eke out an acceptable existence for themselves, and gain a foothold for themselves and their children. But the majority end up amid the urban unemployed, swelling the ranks of the homeless or poorly housed. Squatter settlements and shanty towns proliferate.

Hundreds of millions of children grow up in nests of squalor, misery and alienation. Millions drop out early from school — if they attend school at all. Driven by low family incomes, many start work at a very young age, labouring for cents in households, workshops, grocery shops or small industries.

The International Labour Organisation estimates there are 75 to 100 million 'economically active' children, 98 percent in the developing countries. Child employment is quite different from adult employment. Employed children are vulnerable and can easily be exploited. They are exposed to risks at work; they are more vulnerable than adults to the effects of various pollutants encountered in the work environment.

Children working in battery workshops or small printing shops are exposed to high levels of lead. Those working in metal workshops are exposed to high concentrations of toxic vapours and corrosive liquids. Children working as garbage collectors are exposed to a wide array of infections.

Street Children

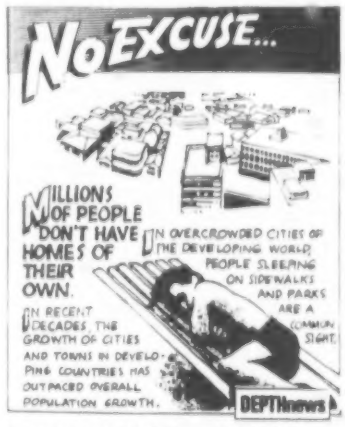
The rise of the super-city poses massive environmental and social problems for their inhabitants, particularly children. By early next century, 60 percent of all people could be living in cities.

Many children who do not find work end up on the streets. Some 100 million children live on the streets of the world's cities today (Robilant, 1989). They live adrift on the margins of adult society — scavenging, stealing and finding transient jobs, selling small items, shining shoes, guarding and washing cars, etc. Gangs, prostitution and the drug trade are inevitable for many.

Victims of poverty and underdevelopment, street children are also victims of poor environmental conditions. They are society's disposable people with no voice or vote; their plight is often overlooked by political leaders and city planners alike.

Children at war

Warfare also takes its toll of children's lives and welfare. Studies of wars in this century have shown that the development of weapons and military technologies have tended to increase civilian suffering. Of the 127 wars (including civil wars) between 1945 and 1989, all but two have occurred in the developing world. These have caused a total of 21.8 million war-related deaths, and the death toll among civilians has steadily increased. In the early 1950s, civilians accounted for half of the war dead; in the late 1980s, civilians were about three quarters of the total dead (Sivard, 1989). Children unable to protect themselves or flee effectively, are most at risk.


NO EXCUSE...
MILLIONS OF PEOPLE DON'T HAVE HOMES OF THEIR OWN.
IN OVERCROWDED CITIES OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD, PEOPLE SLEEPING ON SIDEWALKS AND PARKS ARE A COMMON SIGHT.
IN RECENT DECADES, THE GROWTH OF CITIES AND TOWNS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAS OUTPACED OVERALL POPULATION GROWTH.
DEPTHnews

Wars obviously kill children, destroy environmental resources and wreck schools, homes and farms, but they also disrupt natural resource programs and programs to improve children's well-being, such as feeding or immunisation projects.

The issue of children being forced to fight in armed conflicts was discussed in great depth during the drafting and adoption of the Convention, with much of the focus on the age limit for participation. The result was agreement that the parties to the Convention 'shall take all feasible measures to ensure that persons who have not attained the age of 15 years do not take part in hostilities'.

Focus on youth in Asia

Assignment sheet

Select one or two of the sections below. (Make sure you have the information sheet to go with your selection.)

1 Children in Asia Datafile

• Using the ***Children in Asia datafile*** rank the countries in order of total population. Use this list to make comparisons between total population and:
a) annual growth rate; b) % under 15 c) % completing primary school;
d) under 1 mortality rate; e) % safe water; and f) daily calorie supply per capita.

• Draw graphs to show % of 1 year olds immunised for polio, measles, TB and DPT in 1987/88. Draw a similar graph showing under 1 and under 5 mortality rates. Does there appear to be any connection between immunisation rates and child mortality?

2 The world summit for children

• Prepare and display posters that illustrate aspects of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, such as equal rights regardless of race, colour, sex, religion or the rights in the three main areas: survival, development and protection.

• Explain in your own words what is meant by the **Principle of first call**.

• Discuss the overall goals for the year 2000. Consider which are the most important of the six goals listed and list them in order giving reasons for your choice.

3 Survival

• Prepare graphics or diagrams to illustrate the ASIAWEEK article about 100 households.

• Make a study of Australia's aid programs. Write to or visit local aid agencies to ask for information.

4 Development

• Chose one of the three DEPTHnews posters. Explain in your own words what message the poster is showing. Prepare a poster of your own to illustrate some aspect about the need for education.

• Discuss what this area of rights means to the children of Australia.

5 Protection

• Discuss the need for protection of children in a wide range of circumstances. Make a study of the plight of children caught up in armed conflicts such as the Vietnam War, civil unrest in Cambodia or the student protests in Tiananmen Square.

• Discuss issues concerning Australian homeless youth. Find out how governments, organisations and individuals are trying to help. Suggest other ways that they may solve some of the problems these children face.

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